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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Damascus Says Resumption of Washington Talks 'Futile'

MM1601150995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Lebanese officials have cited senior Syrian officials' affirmation that Damascus believes it is unnecessary to resume the Washington discussions in the framework of the diplomatic-military committee, which included the two countries' [Israel and Syria] ambassadors to the U.S. capital and the two chiefs of staff, "unless there are new Israeli offers that eliminate Syrian disappointment over the results of the three rounds [of talks] held by the committee, which met in Washington last month under U.S. sponsorship."

The Lebanese officials, who visited the Syrian capital a few days ago, stressed that "Damascus believes that the results of the three rounds were disappointing. Because no progress was made during the talks, and the disappointment is attributable to the fact that the dispatch of Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihab—with the weight he represents—to participate in the meetings with the Israelis encountered nothing equal to it in terms of the positions required from the Israelis vis-a-vis the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan."

These officials said that the Syrian leadership believes that it is futile to resume the Washington meetings unless a development occurs in the situation, causing Syria to believe that there is something attracting it to such meetings.

This atmosphere coincides with Western diplomatic sources' information to the effect that Syria could downgrade its military representation in the diplomatic-military discussions if the meetings are held without anything new or concession from the Israelis, thus not sending Gen. al-Shihabi to the next meeting. And that it could send a senior officer holding the rank of deputy chief of staff or one of his aides.

Meanwhile, Lebanese ministerial sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that there is Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian coordination regarding a unified position during the Jerusalem Committee's meetings, whose proceedings are scheduled to begin in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Jerusalem Committee Holds Meeting in Morocco

Iraq's al-Sahhaf Arrives

JN1601120195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, 16 Jan (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in Casablanca last night to attend meetings of the 15th session of the Jerusalem Committee, slated to begin its work in the Moroccan city of Ifrane later today.

During its two-day meetings, which will be chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco, the Jerusalem committee will discuss the issue of Jerusalem, as well as the means to augment the assets of the Jerusalem Waqf Fund, estimated at $100 million, so the committee can accomplish its tasks and be able to confront the Zionist settler expansionist schemes against the city.

The committee membership consists of 15 Arab and Islamic states, including Iraq.

Syrian Official Arrives

LD1601172695 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam [Syrian vice president—name as heard] arrived in our country at noon today to represent his country in the proceedings of the Jerusalem Committee, which will begin its work in Ifrane this evening under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious. The following is the text of the Syrian official's statement on arrival at Fez:

[Begin Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' recording] First, I would like to express the satisfaction of the Syrian Arab delegation to be in the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco to participate in the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II.

Naturally, we hope that this meeting will result in a unified stance for the Islamic countries, who have expressed fully their aspirations in connection with the Arabs regaining their occupied territories in full, with Holy Jerusalem being in the forefront of those occupied Arab territories on which the two UN resolutions No. 242 and 338 apply. Naturally, we shall express this stance in the Jerusalem Committee's meeting, hoping that we will not be dealing with marginal issues, which would intensify Arab and Islamic disagreements.

We are confident that the meeting under the chairmanship of King Hassan II will be crowned with success, as the Islamic summit conference was crowned with success. Of course, consultations will also take place with many heads of delegations, members of the Jerusalem Committee, to discuss the most important issues of interest to the Arab and Islamic nations. [end recording]

Pakistani Foreign Minister Speaks

BK1701152495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 15th session of the Al-Quds Committee began in Ifrane near the city of Fez in Morocco today. Addressing the committee members, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said the session is taking place at a crucial juncture in the tumultuous history of this strategic region. He said the peace process in the Middle East has entered a crucial phase and the overall situation in the region is undergoing a phenomenal change. The foreign minister said Pakistan has welcomed the setting up of the autonomous Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Ariha [Jericho] as a first stage toward full realization of national aspirations of Palestinian people. He said these steps must reinforce the obligations of the negotiating parties to address all issues that are of international concern, particularly the status of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said it is our earnest hope that the Muslims in Kashmir, Bosnia, Azerbaijan, and elsewhere will soon find freedom from the forces of aggression and be able to live in dignity and honor.

Ali Demands Israeli Withdrawal

BK1701160695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Al-Quds Committee meeting in Moroccan city of Ifrane, Pakistan has called for complete Israeli withdrawal from al-Quds al-Sharif and restoration of its Islamic character for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Speaking at a meeting of the committee, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said no arrangement, protocol, or understanding which postulates the continuance of Israeli occupation of holy city will be acceptable to the Islamic ummah [community]. The foreign minister said we cannot accept the transfer of al-Quds to any non-Islamic sovereignty. He said withdrawal of Israeli forces from the city is a paramount and unchangeable prerequisite for a lasting and comprehensive settlement in the region. The foreign minister demanded to check Israeli actions in occupied Arab territories effectively and said Pakistan is deeply concerned over the forcible eviction of Palestinian people from their land.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also referred to the plight of Kashmiri people and Muslims in other parts of the world and urged the Islamic ummah to use its influence for forcing India to immediately stop its repression unleashed against the Kashmiri people.

'Arafat Delivers Address

JN1701182095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1548 GMT 17 Jan 95

["Text" of address by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian Authority, at the opening session of the Jerusalem Committee's 15th session in Ifrane, Morocco "today"—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, compassionate. Glory to God who did take his servant for a journey by night from the sacred mosque to the farthest mosque whose precincts we did bless—in order that we might show him some of our signs: for he is the one who heareth and seeth all things. [Koranic verse]

Your Majesty King Hassan II of sisterly Morocco, chairman of the Islamic Conference, and chairman of the Jerusalem Committee; Brother Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization; Esteemed Brother Members of the Jerusalem Committee: I greatly appreciate and thank your majesty for kindly inviting this committee, the Jerusalem Committee, for a meeting. Your Majesty the King: You are a true keeper of your promises; when we met in Casablanca, you promised us that the meeting would take place mid-January, and here we are holding this blessed meeting today for the sake of Jerusalem and in its defense. We are also meeting to underline the Islamic nation's stand on it. It is the first of the two qiblahs [direction toward which Muslims turn for prayer], the third holiest place, the place to which Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon, performed his night journey, and the cradle of Christ, may peace be upon him. This meeting coincides with a critical stage experienced by the issue of the holy Jerusalem and the Palestine question with its holy Islamic and Christian places.

As Muslims, while respecting any Jewish sanctities in the city, we insist on raising the issue of both Islamic and Christian holy places in fulfillment of the 'Umarite Convention which the commander of the faithful [Muslim Caliph] 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab gave to Patriarch (Saphronius). Yes, Your Majesty the king, the timing of this meeting is important, for everyone of us feels the dangerous situation in holy Jerusalem and its holy places and the current Israeli attempts to change its religious character and Palestinian Arab identity. To achieve this, Israel is confiscating more land, building settlements in it and around it, and increasing the number settlers in it. This aims to change the demography of the holy city and to introduce new and daily facts to impose the status quo. In addition, Israel continues to close the city and bans the Muslims and Christians from performing their religious duties in it, thus violating the international legitimacy, the UN Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions, and the Geneva Convention of 1949.

This is in addition to the violations of the agreements between the PLO and Israel. These agreements stipulate that no change should be introduced to the holy city in the transitional stage and that Palestinian institutions in this city should be preserved and their work should be facilitated. In addition, the holy Islamic and Christian shrines in it should be protected and all facilities should be made available to these shrines. Consider what happened to the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, when the mosque was divided and prayer was forbidden there.

However, what is happening on the ground is totally different from the agreements that were reached. What is happening threatens the peace process in its entirety.

This dictates that we all bear a pan-Arab, historic, and religious responsibility to save and preserve the holy city, since this is a trust that we all should preserve.

Israel's conduct toward the holy city dictates that we move in all directions, including the Arab, Islamic, Christian, and international arenas to raise this issue at all forums, including the United Nations and the Security Council. We should also approach the cosponsors of the peace process in this regard, as well as the international community, in order to help our Palestinian people confront what is happening and to consolidate their steadfastness, entrench their stands, and support their struggle in the holy city in particular, and in Palestine in general.

We are faced with a flood of settlements and expropriation of territory under various pretexts to advance this serious scheme. In addition, Israel is making demographic changes, day and night, as if it were racing against time, to change these facts and consolidate a policy of fait accompli. This seriously and negatively affects the peace process in the region. How can there be peace without Jerusalem? How can there be stability without preserving our holy shrines in Jerusalem, its Arabism, and Palestinian character? This holy city is part of the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. Resolution 242—which is the basic frame of reference of the peace process—applies to Jerusalem. The settlers, through their new settlement activity, are trying to strike at the peace process. This is in addition to sluggishness in withdrawal from the rest of the West Bank, not handing over the rest of the powers, delaying the process of elections, and other serious measures.

Yes, Your Majesty; Yes, esteemed brothers: This holy city, Jerusalem, is the capital of the state of Palestine. It has been so and will remain its capital. This is our pledge to our Arab and Islamic nation, and this is also our pledge to the righteous martyrs, irrespective of the hardships. We fully believe that for peace to be just and comprehensive it should take place on all the Arab fronts and tracks, including the withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon in accordance with international Resolutions 242, 338, and 415.

Your Majesty, chairman of the Islamic Conference, and chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, esteemed brothers: In light of the daily Palestinian tribulation to entrench Arab rights in Palestine, I ask the Arab and Islamic nation to heal the rift, consolidate its solidarity, and close its ranks so that our Arab and Islamic nation's force remains the force that upholds justice and rights in Palestine and in holy Jerusalem.

To enable us to face this new world order and so that it may not be established at our expense as an Arab and Islamic nation and at the expense of our future generations, we should adopt a firm and forceful stand in support of our brothers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we should not forget our Chechen brothers and their sufferings. Let us work to end the siege on the people and children of Iraq and the siege on the Libyan people, and let us restore Arab and Islamic solidarity as genuine, firm, and impregnable as it used to be.

Your Majesty, esteemed brothers: Our people look up to your majesty and to their Arab and Muslim brothers for support and assistance in standing fast on the land of steadfastness, in Jerusalem, and in Palestine.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We will, without doubt, help our apostles and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse]

King Hassan Addresses Meeting

LD1701212095 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Address by Moroccan King Hassan II at the 15th session of the Jerusalem Committee in Ifrane—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise be to God, and prayers and peace be upon our lord the messenger of God, his folk, and companions.

I shall not address you by your excellencies, or highnesses. I shall address you as my dear colleagues, because I have told you, we are members of a team and colleagues. The fellow traveller is the one who knows how to establish kinship, frankness, and faithfulness relationships.

Every one of us knows that our road is long and our work is difficult. But God willing we shall overcome it with our solidarity, the creation of a true team spirit, and finally by relying on God to whom is ascribed all perfection and majesty.

The proceedings of our session has been very active. For example, after the formal speeches all the delegations spent many hours of the night preparing this statement. If the length of time means anything, it means that each delegation was armed with a professional conscience, appreciation of the responsibility, awareness of the current circumstances, and a firm belief in the (?present) goals.

Praise be to God, we have come out of our meeting, in the midst of the difficult and critical conditions in which the Islamic world was living, particularly the issue of Jerusalem. We have come out of the meeting cohesive, joined, and united after a lively discussion, as I have said. The discussion showed that our committee was neither a routine committee nor a formal committee, but an active committee enjoying good health. [passage omitted]

Jordan, Palestinians Reach 'Agreement'

JN1701185095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Diplomatic and press circles in the Moroccan city of Ifrane—where the meetings of the

Jerusalem Committee are taking place—have highlighted the activities of the Jordanian, Palestinian, Egyptian, and Moroccan delegations. These activities were marked by full coordination. This has contributed to making the conference succeed and reach a final statement in a way that specifies the objectives of efforts to protect the identity and Arab and Islamic character of Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine.

As a result of the high degree of coordination, an agreement was reached between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides during the meeting of Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti with His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. In addition, there was concord between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides on the one hand and the Moroccan and Egyptian sides on the other.

Following the end of the conference and the issuance of a final statement, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Jordan supports the contents of the statement. Jordan will seek seriously to implement the recommendations of the statement on the official, popular, and information levels.

Commenting on a Moroccan suggestion to set up a Jerusalem treasury as an agency to save Jerusalem, protect Palestinian rights in it, support the steadfastness of its people, and preserve its cultural, religious, and architectural heritage, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Jordan will participate positively in drafting the basic bylaws of this agency until it comes up with a final formula to be referred to the next Islamic summit. Al- Kabariti said President 'Arafat will visit Amman shortly.

The foreign minister will leave for Tunisia tomorrow to meet with the Tunisian foreign minister and officials. His visit is in response to an invitation by the Tunisian foreign minister.

Statement of Jerusalem Committee Summit

LD1701184395 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Statement issued by the 15th session of the Jerusalem Committee in Ifrane, Morocco—live; read by unidentified speaker]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The draft final statement and the recommendations of the Jerusalem Committee's 15th session, Ifrane, Kingdom of Morocco. In response to a noble invitation addressed by His Majesty King Hassan II—king of Morocco, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and chairman of 7th Islamic summit—the Jerusalem Committee held its 15th session in the city of Ifrane in the Kingdom of Morocco on 16 and 17 January to examine the dangerous conditions through which the issue of Holy Jerusalem, the number one issue of the Islamic nation, as a result of the continuation of the occupation of the holy city by Israel, and Israel's continuing to implement its plan which aims at the Judaization of the holy city and the obliteration of its Arab-Islamic cultural landmarks.

The participants in the work of the Committee were: His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the Head of State of Palestine; their excellencies the ministers and delegations of the member- states of the Committee; His Excellency Hamid Algabid, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general.

The work of the session was opened by His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit, with a directive speech in which His Majesty stressed the responsibility of the Committee vis-a-vis the issue of Holy Jerusalem in the light of the latest development of events, underlining the necessity of concentrating the Committee's activities in a manner compatible with the new situation. His Majesty pointed out that the issue of Holy Jerusalem and its political and religious dimensions requires a realistic treatment in which logic, patience, and wisdom should be given priority over sentiments and feelings. His Majesty added that the Islamic nation does not harbor any enmity toward anybody; equally, it does not want to be placed face to face against the de facto situation. Islam is not a religion of war or subjugation or tyranny, but a religion of understanding and forgiveness, and more than all that, it is the religion of living together, as this last element is a gauge of civilization.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the head of state of Palestine, also spoke. He outlined the dangers confronting the city of Holy Jerusalem and its religious sanctities, and the attempts by Israel to change the city's religious nature and its Arab-Palestinian identity, and the fact that Israel is confiscating more land and building settlements. He called on the Islamic nation to move and in all directions and on all levels to confront what is taking place, and consolidate the steadfastness and bolster and support the struggle of the Palestinian people in the holy city especially, and in Palestine in general.

His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, the ICO secretary general, delivered his speech in which he reviewed the situation in which the city of Holy Jerusalem is passing, and the moves required from the Islamic nation to bolster this issue. His Excellency reviewed also the activities of the secretariat general at the level of the issue of the city of Holy Jerusalem and Palestine.

After that, the members of the Committee carried out deliberations about the current situation in which the City of Holy Jerusalem is passing and studied the means for retrieving it and supporting the Palestinian inhabitants and establishments in the holy city in confronting the Israeli plans that aim at the Judaization of the city and changing its cultural, civilization, religious, and demographic landmarks in an attempt to create a new de facto situation on the ground.

In light of those deliberations, the Committee defined the tangible measures and the practical procedures and recommended the following:

1. At the international political level:

a: It reaffirms that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle east region will not be realized except through the implementation of Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and 338 and 425 and the principle of land for peace in order to guarantee Israel's total withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 lines, including the City of Holy Jerusalem, Syrian Golan, and southern Lebanon, and guarantee the realization of the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return and self-determination and the establishment of its independent state on its national soil, whose capital city is Holy Jerusalem.

2. It affirms that the holy city of Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the Palestinian land occupied in 1967, and it underlines the need for its return to Palestinian sovereignty as capital of the state of Palestine.

3. It urges the Islamic nation to join efforts to support the Palestinian right to the holy city of Jerusalem, and to back by various means the positions of the PLO for the transfer of all authority and responsibilities in the Palestinian occupied land, including Jerusalem, to the Palestinian national authority.

4. It calls on the UN Security Council, and particularly the two states sponsoring the peace conference, to take the necessary measures to make Israel stop settlement-building and Judaization of Jerusalem, and not to undertake any geographical or demographic alteration there, and to be committed to the agreements and conventions concerning the nonviolation of Palestinian institutions and the Islamic and Christian sacred places in Jerusalem in implementation of the Security Council resolutions pertaining to this matter.

5. Demands that states adhere to the UN Security Council Resolution 478 of 1980 which stipulates that diplomatic missions must not be moved to the holy city of Jerusalem. It reaffirms that all legislative, administrative, and settlement measures aimed at changing the holy city's legal status are invalid and are in breach of international accords, charters, and conventions, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy including, UN Security Council Resolutions 465, 476, 478 of 1980, and the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly which demand the abolition of the measures.

6. Strongly condemns the Israeli Knesset's resolution issued on the 26 December 1994 banning all activities of the Palestinian institutions in the city of Holy Jerusalem, demands from the international community that they not recognize this resolution and to urge Israel to revoke it.

7. Condemns the repeated Israeli attacks on the Lebanese territories and its resultant casualties and destruction.

8. Appeals to His Majesty King Hassan II, the monarch of Morocco, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit, to continue the contacts that he deems necessary at the international level and particularly with the member-states of the Security Council and the co-sponsors of the peace process, the European Union, Vatican city, and other Christian points of reference to win over the aspired for support and backing to recover the city of Jerusalem and explain the dangers of Israeli practices and measures on the peace process and on security and stability in the Middle East region.

9. Calls on the secretary general to conduct the necessary contacts with the regional and international organizations and the international specialized agencies with the aim of studying adequate ways to preserve the civilizational, cultural, and religious heritage in the holy city and to enforce the steadfastness of its population.

10. It has decided to set up a contact group at the level of permanent delegates of member-states of the committee at the UN Headquarters in New York to follow up the execution of its decisions and those of the security council resolutions pertaining to holy Jerusalem, and secondly, at the level of supporting the holy city of Jerusalem.

11. It affirms the important role of the Jerusalem Fund in bolstering the resistance of the holy city and its institutions in the face of the Israeli schemes, and calls on the Islamic Conference Organization member states to pledge to cover the capital of the Jerusalem Fund and its subsidiaries in order to populate Jerusalem, build housing units there, and refurbish its old buildings so as to preserve the civilization and Islamic heritage and bolster the resistance of its population.

12. Gives permission to the board of directors of the Jerusalem Fund to exercise the authorities stipulated in its statues and clauses two, three, and eight of its law.

13. Welcomes the proposal made by His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and the seventh Islamic summit conference, to establish the Holy Jerusalem treasury [bayt mal] to save Holy Jerusalem, protect the Palestinians' right to it, support the steadfastness of its people, and safeguard its cultural, religious, and architectural heritage.

The Holy Jerusalem treasury will be set up as an agency, the objective of which will be to mobilize material and financial resources from the ICO member states, institutions, establishments, private sector, Islamic and Arab associations, communities, and individuals. The agency will come under the supervision of the Jerusalem Committee and linked to the Jerusalem Committee. Its management will be subject to the following general principles:

The agency will function in accordance with the principles of the private sector.

It will work in complete transparency and responsibility.

It will be subject to the rules of accountancy and auditing twice a year by the Jerusalem Committee.

The chairmanship of the Jerusalem Committee will take it upon itself to prepare a draft statute of the agency which will be circulated soon to the members through the ICO general secretariat to give the member states the opportunity to study it and take the appropriate steps in preparation for establishing the agency and having it endorsed by the Islamic conference.

The committee expresses its deep appreciation and great thanks to the king, government, and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to the participating delegations.

Al-Sahhaf Meets With 'Arafat

JN1701205895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fez, 17 Jan (INA)—[Iraqi] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has held a meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the sidelines of the Jerusalem Committee meetings currently held in the Moroccan city of Ifrane.

'Arafat asked al-Sahhaf to convey his warm greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn. During the meeting, they discussed the topics on the agenda of the Jerusalem Committee.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Said To Warn 'Arafat on Modifying Charter

TA1701160095 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 16 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned from informed sources that the U.S. Administration has warned the Palestinian Authority [PA] of the need to modify the Palestinian National Charter before June 1995.

These sources say that Dennis Ross, a senior U.S. State Department official and coordinator of the peace process, met recently with American Jewish leaders and informed them that Washington has given President Yasir 'Arafat until June 1995 to modify the Charter and that, otherwise, Washington will stop the donor countries' aid to the PA.

U.S. Rejection of Gingrich Proposal on Embassy Noted

JN1801073395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. State Department has rejected U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich's proposal to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said that this is an extremely sensitive issue and that President Clinton has clearly stated the United States will not do anything that might complicate the peace talks between the Arab states and Israel.

'Arafat Meets Muslim Brotherhood Leaders in Cairo

NC1801115195 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] during the recent visit he made to the MB headquarters in Cairo on Tuesday evening [10 January]. The meeting, which lasted two hours, was attended by Mustafa Mashhur, the MB's deputy general guide; Ma'mun al-Hudaybi; Mahdi 'Akif; and Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna.

The talks between 'Arafat and the MB leaders centered on the Palestinian cause, conditions inside the occupied territories, and the powers of the Palestinian Authority. The two sides asserted the need to do away with all pretexts and slam all doors to any possibility of a clash among the Palestinians.

'Arafat Reportedly To Sign 4 Agreements With Jordan

JN1801075795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Umar al-Khatib, charge d'affaires of the Palestinian Embassy in Jordan, has said a Jordanian-Palestinian ministerial committee will begin meetings in Amman on Sunday [22 January] to prepare for the anticipated summit between President Yasir 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn.

In an exclusive statement to the Palestinian newspaper AL-QUDS, al-Khatib said the Palestinian delegation, which will be headed by the culture and arts minister and which will comprise five other ministers, will arrive in Amman next week. Al-Khatib said the joint committee will discuss the summit agenda, which will include economic, trade, financial, banking, and transport issues.

According to the paper, President 'Arafat will sign four agreements with Jordan during his visit. These will be discussed by the ministerial committee.

PA Claims Pledged Donor Funds Not Received

TA1801114095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Lamia Lahoud]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] received less than one-third of the money pledged to it by donor states in 1994, making it difficult to proceed on any major infrastructure projects, Palestinian officials said.

Only some $240 million of the $787m. pledged has been received, according to PA Economics Minister Ahmad Quray'.

Quray' is also the managing director of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), which is responsible for channeling money to public sector projects.

According to Samir Hulaylah, the PECDAR liaison to agencies funneling money to the PA, the PA has received almost none of the money pledged for infrastructure projects in Gaza, which are meant to create jobs and improve the quality of life.

According to Hulaylah, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat managed to convince the donor states and the World Bank at a meeting in Brussels at the end of November to divert some of the money allocated for projects to covering the PA's expenses. This enabled the PA to cover most of its 1994 budget, and even raise salaries by about 15 percent.

But so far, only $20m. has been dispersed by UN agencies and donor states for infrastructure projects, he said. Some projects to repair the sewage, water, and electricity systems have been started, but most major investment projects cannot get off the ground without more funding.

While funding for public sector construction is being held up, private investors who deal directly with 'Arafat are doing well, Palestinian sources said.

The housing industry is beginning to boom in Gaza's rich Rimal section, close to the sea shore, where local businessmen, often in partnership with Palestinians abroad, have began to build luxury apartments.

'Umar Sarraj, a wealthy Gaza businessman, said the contractors are Gazans who use local workers.

PA Memo Reveals Pace of Settlement Activity

TA1701175795 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 16 Jan 95 p 20

[Report by 'Imad 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, (the autonomy), QUDS PRESS—An internal memo prepared by the Palestinian Authority [PA] about Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank and the eastern part of Jerusalem has revealed an accelerated pace in Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles on 13 September 1993.

The memo, a copy of which was obtained by QUDS PRESS from Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the PA, says that Israel confiscated 11,332 dunams of land in the West Bank—excluding East Jerusalem—from 13 September 1993 until 20 October 1994. According to the same document, Israel confiscated only 2,460 dunams of land in the West Bank from 20 October 1991 until 12 September 1993.

As for East Jerusalem, 79 percent of the city has actually come under Israeli control as a result of land confiscation. The memo points out that after annexation, the entire area of Jerusalem is now 72 square km. On the Israeli methods of expropriating land belonging to East Jerusalem residents, the memo said that 6 percent of the city's lands were confiscated for constructing settlement roads, 40 percent were declared "green areas" in which building is prohibited, and 24 square km, or about 33 percent of the city's area, were confiscated for establishing 15 settlements on them.

The document notes that Israel is currently implementing a five- year plan within the framework of the "Greater Jerusalem" project. The plan calls for building 33,458 housing units, 15,200 of which are currently under construction, the most prominent being 7,500 units in Bayt Hanina and Shu'fat, 1,360 in Bayt Sahur, 1,900 in Bayt Safafa, 800 in al-'Isawiyah, and 800 in the vicinity of the Dung Gate. [passage omitted]

Al-Tibi on Settlement Expansion, Land Expropriation

TA1701175595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, by Yaron Wilensky and Tamar Landau; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Landau] Good evening to Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi.

[Al-Tibi] Good evening.

[Landau] You were at one of the demonstrations today.

[Al-Tibi] In al-Birah.

[Landau] There were reports that the police had detained you. Is that true?

[Al-Tibi] Not that I know of.

[Landau] I see.

[Al-Tibi] There was no need to detain me. The police simply asked me to calm the crowd down and prevent things from getting out of control. At one point, Marwan al-Barghuthi and I reached agreement with a lieutenant colonel from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] that disabled people would be permitted to sit on the hilltop for five minutes—although we asked for ten minutes—but ten seconds later someone gave an order to forcibly disperse the demonstrators. That is what set things off, and it is regrettable that whoever issued that order lost control of his nerves. After all, people only sought to demonstrate.

[Landau] Are these demonstrations all organized by the Palestinian Authority [PA]? Is this some new means of protest devised by the PA?

[Al-Tibi] The activity against land expropriation, usurpation, and settlement activity will continue on two levels: the political level and the public level through demonstrations, processions, and so forth. We will pursue these two directions more intensively over the coming weeks.

[Wilensky] How frequently do you intend to hold public demonstrations?

[Al-Tibi] We have a well-formulated plan. Wherever there is a bulldozer it will be met by Palestinians. We will stop these bulldozers because they are threatening to sweep away the peace process, which should be precious not only to the Palestinians—because neither party is doing anyone any favors—but also for the Israelis. What has been revealed over the past few days regarding the scope of land expropriation and settlement activity, which is continuing through the construction of new housing units and the investment of state funds, is totally in contravention of the government's public commitments and personal promises made by cabinet ministers to the Palestinian leadership.

[Wilensky] And what is the Israeli political echelon telling you today?

[Al-Tibi] At this stage, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that the Israeli Government had frozen settlements and would not initiate the construction of housing units, but we hear Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben- Eli'ezer, who is a minister in the very same cabinet, say exactly the opposite. To my regret, this morning I heard a Gush Emunim spokesmen say that the settlement policy was continuing albeit with different priorities. Therefore, there is apparently no recourse but to state that there is no real difference between the Likud's policies and that of the Labor-Meretz government. The so-called Labor-Meretz government brutally disperses demonstrations, expropriates land, and continues settlement activity. What we are seeing is an act of political deception by the Israeli Government.

[Landau] As for political activity, do you intend to initiate sanctions, such as suspending the talks, for example?

[Al-Tibi] I think it is settlement activity, not the peace process, that should be stopped. However, settlements and the peace process are mutually exclusive, and whoever decides to continue settlement activity has decided to 'kill' the peace process. The responsibility will fall on the Israeli prime minister and his cabinet and the majority of the ministers, who are publicly and personally opposed to continued settlement activity and should muster the courage to impose their views as cabinet members. At this stage, one person is leading everyone by the nose.

[Landau] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, thank you very much.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 17 January carries a recorded interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi in which he says: "If the Government of Israel will not stop the confiscation of land, the reaction will stop to be political and it will be transferred to the street, to the masses. In this way, the Government of Israel is pushing the Palestinians in the West Bank toward an intifadah of the land."]

'Urayqat Views Settlements, Confrontation

JN1701205095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, by Kamal Tarabayy on 17 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Urayqat] What took place today is that the National Committee Against Settlement Activity called for activities in the areas of Hebron, al-Birah, Ramallah, and in the north, in Kafr al-Dik in the Tulkarm area. The aim was to hold peaceful marches. The basic objective was to send a message to the Israeli government and to all Israelis that peace and settlements run along parallel lines and can never meet, and that the Israeli government must opt for either peace or settlements.

Suddenly, military roadblocks were erected in Kafr al-Dik. I was banned from going in and the al-Najah University students were also banned from going in. Representatives from national institutions in Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Janin were also banned from going in. Without any warning, they started to use tear gas, to fire plastic bullets, and to attack the brothers who were staging a sit-in, without any justification. This is one of many Israeli provocations. They did the same thing in the Ramallah area, and in the Hebron area. They declared most of these areas as sealed military areas. While the settlement activities were going on, and the bulldozers were in motion, the Palestinian individual who has right on his side and who owns the land, was being banned from reaching the area to protest and make his voice heard to the world.

[Tarabayy] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, in your opinion what are the real reasons for this new settlement onslaught?

['Urayqat] With respect to the Israeli government, I believe this is directly connected to what is being proposed concerning the issue of redeployment and the imposition of a fait accompli on the ground. The [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement stipulates that neither of the two parties will unilaterally adopt measures that harm the negotiations. The entire issue is one of negotiations on the land. If Israel decides to settle the fate of the land with settlements, this means the negotiations have been emptied of any content. The Israeli government believes it can try to impose new realities on the ground, and the same applies to the settlers movements, which are backed by the Israeli government and which try to impose new realities on the ground and to decide the question of the peace process and the negotiations through the settlements.

[Tarabayy] What means does the Palestinian side, the National Authority, and the PLO, have to force Israel to halt these operations which violate, as is known, the spirit and letter of the agreements signed with Israel?

['Urayqat] The Authority has officially declared its stands and that it will confront these settlement activities on various tracks. The first is in the direct popular struggle through the activation of and support for the committees in defense of the land in terms of marches, planting the land, clinging to the land, drawing the world's attention to what Israel is doing, and securing the direct participation of Authority members. The second track is that of the Palestinian-Israeli official meetings. I can say that the forthcoming meeting between His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin will first and foremost discuss the question of settlements. If the Israeli government pursues this fierce settlement onslaught, this means emptying the negotiations of any content and burying the peace process. Third, the National Authority decided to address the UN Security Council. There is a draft resolution that is being prepared now to be submitted to the UN Security Council on this issue. We work persistently along these and others tracks to halt this settlement drive, through which the Israeli side seeks to turn the clock back and impose a fait accompli on the ground.

Halt to Talks Urged If Settler Activity Continues

JN1801073695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local administration, has said that Jewish settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories will top the agenda of the forthcoming meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He added: If Israel thinks that the issue of land has been resolved through the settlement activity that is aimed at imposing a fait accompli on the ground, the negotiations will be meaningless.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and arts, has said there is no reason to continue negotiations as long as the expansionist settlement drive and looting of the Palestinian territory are continuing.

President 'Arafat is scheduled to meet with Rabin at the Erez crossing point, but no specific date has yet been fixed.

Negotiations over the final status of the occupied territories, particularly the issue of settlement activity, will be held in less than 15 months.

'Most' PA Leaders for Linking Talks, Settlement

TA1801064895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A majority of Palestinian Authority [PA] leaders favor the suspension of talks with Israel until Israel has proven that it has frozen the settlements.

PA member Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinian leadership is waiting for the results of the discussion Rabin and 'Arafat are going to hold tomorrow. He stressed that this meeting will decide the fate of the peace process.

The National Committee Against Settlement Activity, set up by the PA, has announced that it will continue protests wherever bulldozers work on expropriated lands. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told our correspondent that the new Palestinian intifadah is aimed against the thieves of land who are the murderers of peace, as he put it.

Fatah Plans Escalating Protest Against Settlements

TA1801112995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by Ori Nir, Yerah Tal, Nadav Shragay, and Gid'on Alon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Fatah activists in the West Bank intend to block access routes to several settlements as part of their plan to escalate protests against the settlements. This was reported by Fatah activists yesterday, in line with a plan devised by the Fatah leadership in the West Bank.

The movement, headed by Yasir 'Arafat, intends to continue staging protest marches and rallies like those held yesterday in Hebron, al-Birah, and Kafr al-Dik to mark the national day of struggle against the settlements, held under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority, and initiated by Fatah.

A Fatah leader who wished to remain anonymous said yesterday that the protests against the settlements are also used as an instrument of internal crystallization in and refreshing the ideology of the Fatah movement, which has recently encountered a crisis in the territories. Marwan al-Barghuthi, Fatah secretary general in the West Bank, said yesterday that the monitoring committee that plans the protests will convene today to decide on escalation methods. [passage omitted]

Algeria

'Arafat, OAU Secretary General Pay Visit

LD1801111295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning State President Liamine Zeroual received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat who arrived in Algeria today on his visit from the self-rule territories.

President Liamine Zeroual also received at the presidential palace this morning Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary general of the OAU.

OAU Secretary General Makes Statement

LD1701203995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim arrived in Algiers at noon today on a two-day visit.

Salim's visit falls within the framework of the continuous consultations between the OAU and Algeria over numerous issues that concern the African continent.

The visit comes a few days before the holding of the 61st session of the foreign affairs ministers of African countries, scheduled for 23-27 January.

Immediately after arriving in Algiers, the OAU secretary general started talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri at Djenane El-Mithak in the capital this evening.

The talks dealt with the means for strengthening consultation between the OAU and Algeria. The two sides also dealt with the problems from which the African continent was suffering. The two sides also touched on the exacerbated economic problems in Africa, and which would be the subject of discussion by the foreign affairs ministers of African countries next April in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

On arrival at Houari Boumedienne Airport, the OAU secretary-general gave the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Salim, in English fading into Arabic translation] I have come to Algeria to hold talks with the Algerian authorities on the current conditions of the African continent. I shall also discuss the prevailing conditions at the international arena with the Algerian officials

My visit to Algeria will be short, but important, due to the role which Algeria has played and is still playing in the African continent. This visit is considered an opportunity to hold talks in this respect, particularly that the foreign affairs ministers of the OAU's member countries will hold a meeting in Addis Ababa next Monday.

[Unidentified correspondent] The international community has proposed next June for organizing the self-determination referendum of Western Sahara, what is the OAU's position?

[Salim, in English fading into Arabic translation] The OAU has always supported the organization of a free and just self-determination referendum in Western Sahara. The organization is an active side in the UN plan. The OAU was the one that presented this proposal, because the organization of a self-referendum in Western Sahara was in our interest. It is necessary to intensify the efforts and offer our contribution for organizing this referendum. [end recording]

Zeroual Supports Human Rights Monitoring Group

LD1601205295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidency's information services have reported that President Liamine Zeroual today addressed a directive to the different concerned state bodies in which he called on them to provide their full support to the National Human Rights Monitoring Group to help it perform its task in monitoring respect for human rights in Algeria.

The directive also mentioned that justice should commit itself to take account of any situation in which there is a possible infringement and deal with it with the severity of the law.

The directive announced in the end that the National Human Rights Monitoring Group will soon open branches throughout the country in order to come closer to the citizens.

The same source stressed that this directive, which reflects once more the state's determination to guarantee respect for human rights, is considered the culmination of an assessment which the presidency services started at the beginning of this month in cooperation with the National Human Rights Monitoring Group. On the basis of actual incidents, this assessment also enables the government to refute some quarters' allegations in connection with human rights conditions in Algeria.

As the president's directive pointed out, these biased allegations, which are aimed at covering the ugly crimes committed by terrorism which neither exclude Algerians of all walks of life, nor Algeria's foreign guests, find their answer in the firm adherence of all concerned state bodies in respecting the principles of the Constitution and the contents of the law. This reply will become more beneficial as transparency engulfs the state's effort in this respect.

Details of Rome Agreement Published

MM1701152695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 95 p4

["Text of the Document Containing the Agreement of the Opposition Parties and the Salvation Front," adopted at meeting of Algerian parties in Rome; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria is now facing a tragic, unprecedented test. After 30 years of independence, for which a high price was paid, the people still do not see a fulfillment of the 1 November 1954 declaration of principles nor a fulfillment of all its objectives. In fact, since October 1988, they have begun to see the doors of hope gradually closing.

The Algerian people now live in unparallelled fear made even more serious by stifling social and economic conditions. In this nondescript war, detentions, disappearances, assassinations, legalized torture, mutilation, and revenge have become the daily lot of Algerians, male and female.

The June 1991 and 11 January 1992 coups, the suspension of the election process, the closure of the political arena, the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], the declaration of the state of emergency, the repressive measures, and the reactions to these measures have all nurtured the logic of confrontation leading to the country's crisis.

Since then, violence has been intensifying and spreading. The regime's attempts to form militias among the population constitute a new phase of the policy of escalation for the worse. The dangers of civil war are real and they threaten the physical safey of the people as well as the country's unity and national sovereignty.

The urgent need for a political, peaceful, comprehensive, democratic, and just solution makes it necessary to open new possibilities for those people who yearn for peace, stability, and popular legitimacy. The authorities have only engaged in false dialogues as a cover for autocratic decisions and for the fait accompli policy. Genuine dialogue remains the only peaceful and democratic way out of the crisis.

The Framework: Values and principles

The conferees commit themselves to a national convenant with a framework embodying:

1. The 1 November 1954 declaration of principles including "the establishment of an independent, sovereign, democratic, and socially fair Algerian state in the context of the principles of Islam."

2. Rejection of violence as a means of reaching or preserving power.

3. Rejection of all forms and types of dictorship, and [confirmation of] the people's right to defend their elected institutions.

4. Respect for and consolidation of human rights as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in accordance with international treaties against torture.

5. Respect for rotation of power through popular ballot.

6. Respect for popular legitimacy. No doubt should be cast on elected legitimate institutions except through popular will.

7. Guarantee of the basic individual and collective liberties irrespective of race, religion, or language.

8. Implementation and guarantee of political and partisan pluralism.

9. Noninterference of the Army in political affairs. It should return to assuming its constitutional duties of safeguarding national unity and territorial integrity.

10. The components of the Algerian character are Islam, Arabism, Tamazight [Berberism], and the two cultures and languages contributing to the development of that character. They should have their place and should be strengthened in the insitutions, without any exclusion or marginalization.

11. Separation of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

12. Freedom of and respect for religion.

Measures Which Should Precede Negotiations

1. Effective release of FIS officials as well as all political detainees, and provision of the necessary means and guarantees to enable the FIS leaders to meet freely among themselves and with those they deem necessary for making their decisions.

2. Opening up the political and informational arena, repealing the decision dissolving FIS, and allowing all parties to resume their activities in complete freedom.

3. Discontinuation of the measures banning or suspending publications, leaflets, and books banned under the emergency measures.

4. Effective and immediate cessation of torture.

5. Suspension of death sentences and executions outside the framework of the judiciary, as well as reprisals against civilian population.

6. Condemnation of violence with a call for an immediate end to the assassination of civilians and foreigners and destruction of public property.

7. Formation of an independent commission of inquiry to investigate security excesses and human rights violations.

Restoration of Peace

A new peace dynamism would necessitate a simultaneous, gradual, and negotiated process including:

—real relaxation measures, closure of security detention camps, termination of the state of emergency, and cancellation of the exceptional measures on the one hand, and,

—on the other, an urgent unequivocal appeal for an end to violence as Algerians, male and female, look forward to a speedy restoration of civil peace.

Ways of implementing these commitments should be decided by the two parties to the conflict with the participation of other representative parties.

This dynamic requires full participation of effectively representative and peaceful political forces. Such forces can contribute to the success of this course and to securing popular support for it.

Restoration of Constitutional Legitimacy

The parties are committed to respecting the 23 February 1989 constitution. The Constitution can only be amended by constitutional means.

Restoration of Popular Sovereignty

The parties participating in the negotiations should define the "transitional" legitimacy for the implementation of the agreement. They should hold a national conference that would be given (have) effective powers and would comprise the actual (existing) authorities and representative parties.

That conference should determine:

1. The transitional period structures and length and modus operandi of the transitional period, making it as short as possible, leading to free and pluralistic elections that would enable the people to exercise their full sovereignty.

2. Freedom of the media and freedom of the flow of information to the media and complete freedom of choice for the people.

Guarantees

While maintaining their own independent decisionmaking, the parties have decided:

1. To oppose any foreign interference in Algeria's internal affairs.

2. To condemn the actual internationalization of the crisis as a result of the regime's confrontation policy.

3. To pledge to launch a worldwide information campaign to explain the dimensions and details of the agreement and seek support for it.

4. To work for an international petition in support of the call for a political and peaceful solution in Algeria.

5. To call on the international community to express solidarity with the Algerian people.

6. To keep in contact and maintain continuous consultation among themselves.

Signed by: Ali Yahya Abdelnour for the Algerian Human Rights League; Abdehamid Mehri for the National Liberation Front; Hocine Ait Ahmed and Ahmed Djeddi for the Socialist Forces Front; Rabih Kebir and Anouar Haddam for the FIS; Ahmed Ben Bella and Khalid Ben Samma'in for the Movement for Democracy in Algeria; Abdallah Djaballah for al-Nahdah; Louisa Hanoun for the Labor Party; and Ahmed Ben Mohamed for the Contemporary Muslim Youth

Exiled FIS Leader Seeks Support for Rome Agreement

BR1701141295 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 16 Jan 95 p 2

[Interview with Raba Kebir, exiled FIS leader, by Ignacio Cembrero in Madrid; date not given: "The Regime Must Now Choose Between War And Peace"—first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid—He was unable to go to Rome but, by fax, he fully took part in the negotiations between the main Algerian political parties. Last Friday, in the Holy City, Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, Islamists, Socialist Forces' Front (FFS) leftists, the former single party National Liberation Front (FLN), and three other minor groups reached an agreement which they now intend to negotiate with the government in order to put an end to violence and restore democracy. From his refuge in western Germany, FIS exiled Leader Raba Kebir commented on the agreement.

[Cembrero] What does this agreement mean?

[Kebir] It is the platform of a number of political parties with different ideologies, but which represent 80 percent of the Algerian population, and which are indicating to the existing government that they wish to reach a negotiated solution to restore stability in the country. It is a peace offer which must be accepted to prevent Algeria from plunging into complete chaos and an open civil war.

[Cembrero] Must this offer now be negotiated with President Liamin Zeroual?

[Kebir] We must negotiate the details of its implementation through a national conference, but I believe that, with regard to the fundamental issues, there is not much room for discussion. Giving up armed actions, together with universal suffrage, political alternation in power, and a multi-party system are the fundamental values on which Algeria must be based in the future, and they cannot be called into question.

[Cembrero] Will the regime agree to sitting down at the negotiating table with you?

[Kebir] We have now forced to face up to its own responsibilities. For years it has been saying that it wants a negotiated solution. Its attitude to the meeting in Rome was hostile. It will find it difficult to back up. The Algerian media's initial reactions have been negative. If the regime adopts a similar attitude, it will prove that its professed intentions were not sincere. It will be unmasked.

[Cembrero] When last September the two top FIS Leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhajd were imprisoned, you said you believed in President Zeroual's sincerety. Is this still the case?

[Kebir] I believe there are sincere people among those in power, but they have very little room to maneuver because of the weight carried by those who hope to impose their solutions through violence. They have already started placing obstacles on the path leading to the implementation of the Rome agreement. The assassination of six FLN activists in Eastern Algeria is the response given by one section of the security services to this party's participation in the Rome conference.

[Cembrero] It is surprising to see Islamists accept alternation in power, a multi-party system, and so on. Is the Algeria they are dreaming of different from a traditional Islamic regime such as the one in Iran?

[Kebir] This is no news. We have always stated our position. Our conception of Islam bears Algeria's colors rather than those of any other country.

[Cembrero] Why were you unable to go to Rome?

[Kebir] The German authorities refused to give me an exit visa. I do not know whose pressure they gave in to. Nevertheless, I did take part in the negotiations.

[Cembrero] What can Western countries do to favor a peaceful outcome in Algeria?

[Kebir] To begin with, express their sympathy for what has been achieved in Rome. Washington has already done so, and we would like other capitals to do the same. We do not want foreign interference in Algeria. However, it might happen that at some stage we may require international guarantees or observers to validate any agreements between us and the government in power.

[Cembrero] How can the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), that is, the most radical guerrilla, be made to join the negotiating process?

[Kebir] The GIA did not take part in the Rome meeting because it is not a political party. If the FIS leaders subjected to home arrest are allowed to freely meet representatives of the Islamic movement as a whole, we are confident that we can convince everybody to give up armed struggle and follow the path of negotiations. What is inadmissible is to arrest those who have tried to contact Madani and Belhajd.

Ben Bella: Country's 'Situation May Improve'

BR1701153795 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish
15 Jan 95 p 19

[Interview with former President and Movement for Democracy Leader Ahmed Ben Bella by Marta Lobato; place and date not given: "Genuine Dialogue Is Necessary"—first paragraph is EL MUNDO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria's first president after the independence and today leader of the Movement for Democracy spoke to EL MUNDO after signing the [Rome Compromise] document.

[Lobato] What are the main points of the proposal you have drawn up to find a way out of the crisis and put a stop to the blood bath in Algeria?

[Ben Bella] The document we have agreed arises from the need to start a genuine dialogue which can be considered serious by all the parties involved. The most important aspect are the conditions set down to open this dialogue and put and end to violence. Among other things, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders who are still imprisoned must be freed in order to achieve this.

[Lobato] What are your plans with regard to the Algerian regime?

[Ben Bella] We will ask the Algerian regime to reply to our proposals for pacifying the country and resuming the democratization process.

[Lobato] Do you believe Algiers will accept this platform?

[Ben Bella] Well, for the time being we are witnessing an escalation of violence on the part of the regime, but they must eventually realize that this is leading nowhere, and they will then start a serious dialogue with the opposition.

[Lobato] Are you satisfied with the results of these talks?

[Ben Bella] Yes. We found we agreed on this platform for dialogue, and I believe this year the situation may improve.

[Lobato] What are Algeria's short-term prospects?

[Ben Bella] I am optimistic.

*Ait Ahmed: 'Secret Government' Condemned

95AF0037A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
24 Dec 94 pp 34-37

[Report on interview with Hocine Ait Ahmed, a historic symbol of the Algerian revolution, by Fahmi Huwaydi, in Madrid; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hocine Ait Ahmed, a historic symbol of the Algerian revolution, said the possibility of French military intervention in Algeria is gradually increasing. One of the basic tasks of the national forces at present, he said, is to decide on how to establish a front to deal with and block such intervention as quickly and forcefully as possible. He said that the "secret government" ruling Algeria since the sixties—the start of independence—does not want to introduce any radical changes in the country. It insists on holding onto power forever at any price.

Ait Ahmed, 68, had a lot of important things to say when I met him in Madrid at a conference whose title was "peace." Although the conference was devoted to Middle East peace, he thought it was an opportunity to raise the issue of the fire raging in Algeria. Ait Ahmed contested the conference organizers' decision to focus on what is happening in the Middle East and ignore peace in Algeria, which is a short distance from them.

I noticed that he was speaking in Spanish. When I made a remark, he laughed and said: The life of an exiled person dictates that he speak several languages—French, English, Italian, German, and Spanish. This is in addition Arabic and Tamazight. Because he roams the various capitals of the world to explain his country's cause, he prefers to talk to people in their own language. This makes it possible for him to draw closer to their minds and hearts.

The leader of the Socialist Forces Front had arrived from a meeting in Rome. The meeting was attended, for the first time, by the various Algerian parties, including the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. I asked him about its most important results. He said the meeting was the first attempt to conduct a genuine dialogue among the Algerian political forces. This is an important achievement. It was also a declaration that the Algerian problem can be solved by peaceful and democratic methods, and not the "extermination" method currently being used in Algeria. The importance of this message lies in the fact that there are people who claim that there is no solution to the Algerian problem except war and force. By holding this meeting, we are telling the Algerian government that dialogue is possible if the necessary serious conditions exist. The meeting was a step toward the establishment of a front embracing all the political forces opposed to French intervention, on the one hand, and seeking to conclude a democratic contract among them, on the other. This was the most important achievement.

[Huwaydi] Do you mean French political or military intervention?

[Ait Ahmed] France has been politically intervening in Algeria since the beginning of the crisis. Regrettably, the decision-making wing in Paris is acting as if Algeria is still a French colony and has not received its independence yet. The present French Interior Minister Charles Pascua says on every occasion that the Algerian problem cannot be solved through dialogue, and war is the only option. This is what Francois Mitterrand was saying when he was the interior minister in 1958. He used to say that there is no solution but war.

[Huwaydi] Then what you mean is military intervention?

[Ait Ahmed] Yes, this is what I mean. There are forces in Algeria that want the French army to intervene as it did in Rwanda. They want civil war to take place so it would appear that the only way to save the country is through international intervention, and France is ready. Regrettably, Paris is prepared to get involved in such a venture.

[Huwaydi] How credible is this possibility?

[Ait Ahmed] What matters is that such an idea exists, and the possibility is increasing. Therefore, the establishment of this political front is urgently needed now to nip the idea in the bud and block all pretexts to justify intervention at any time.

[Huwaydi] You are calling for the signing of a democratic contract. What is meant by the democratic contract?

[Ait Ahmed] I have been advocating such an idea for a long time because I am convinced that the Algerian Revolution in 1954 has not achieved its aims yet. Our first statement called for the establishment of a social democratic state based on the principles of Islam and respecting freedoms and the rights of all people without discrimination. After 40 years, we can say that the Revolution has not achieved the aims it set out to achieve at the beginning. Therefore, we want a contract that will bind all the parties to these principles, particularly the ones that call for democracy, multiparty system, rotation of authority, and equality among all the citizens. We wish the authority can become a party to this contract. But it is clear that it has chosen a different undemocratic path and is adhering to it. Therefore, we have to conclude this contract among the political parties and forces.

[Huwaydi] Did you discuss this issue at the Rome meeting?

[Ait Ahmed] We agreed on some of the principles in the contract. We hope agreement will be developed and accomplished in the future.

[Huwaydi] The government in Algeria has denounced the Rome meeting and said that Algeria's problems must be discussed in Algeria?

[Ait Ahmed] They attacked us and exercised political and diplomatic terrorism against us. We wish the dialogue was held in Algeria. But they reject any serious dialogue. They despise the political parties and do not care about the Algerian people. The dialogue in South Africa between whites and blacks has succeeded despite all the bitterness and deep chasm that existed between them. It succeeded because there was willingness on both sides. The dialogue failed in Algeria, because the government did not want it to succeed. To say that the solution of Algeria's problems should take place on Algerian territory is rejected for many reasons. The most important is that the location is not important. What is more important is the terms of such a solution. We are firmly opposed to any foreign interference in Algeria's affairs. However, we are ready to discuss a solution anywhere. The Palestinian problem and peace in the Middle East were not discussed in the Middle East, but in Madrid and Oslo. They are making excuses to foil the dialogue.

[Huwaydi] Why do they oppose serious dialogue, in your opinion, when the problem and the restoration of stability in the country are definitely in the interest of the government?

[Ait Ahmed] Serious dialogue means agreeing on principles to establish democracy in the country and the rotation of authority is undoubtedly one of these principles. This means ending the army's monopoly of the authority. I say without hesitation that there is a "secret government," which has been controlling power for more than 30 years. It is holding onto its privileges and refuses to give up any of them. This secret government is against democracy and any fundamental reform in the country. It surfaces whenever there are signs of reform. It was the one that led the coup against the democratic process at the end of 1991.

[Huwaydi] It was announced then that the army's action was to protect democracy against the FIS's rule that seemed to be endangering it.

[Ait Ahmed] This is absolutely not true. Democracy was not in any danger when the results of the first round of the elections appeared. It would not be in danger even if the FIS took over the government. I made this clear to General Khaled Nezzar, the defense minister at that time. I explained to him when I met him, after the results of the first round were announced, that under the Constitution, President Chadli Benjedid had the authority to dissolve parliament if democracy was being undermined. Hamrouche's government was in control of the situation and there was no need for the army to intervene. Khaled Nezzar told me that the army would not intervene. However, I realized later that the army had already planned to intervene and that the secret government had made a decision to turn against democracy—even while it claimed that the army was trying to defend democracy.

[Huwaydi] To whom are you referring when you say the secret government?

[Ait Ahmed] French army officers. They are now very influential in the army and in the various security services. Regrettably, the national officers no longer have any role in the commands of the military and security establishments.

[Huwaydi] Is General Mohamed Lamari the head of this government?

[Ait Ahmed] He is certainly one of its pillars. We should not forget that he used to spend most of his time in France.

[Huwaydi] Does this mean that President Liamine Zeroual does not make the decisions in Algerian political affairs?

[Ait Ahmed] He does not have much power, despite his clean record and history. The decision-makers are those who brought him to power and they can remove him at any time. Strong rumors circulated in Algeria that this would take place before the 1 November anniversary celebrations, particularly after the two shaykhs Abbasi Madani and Ali Benhadj were moved from prison and placed under house arrest. However, it seems that these calculations have changed since the extermination group has regained its position and no longer needs to replace him.

[Huwaydi] If this is so, what do you think of the comment in political circles that everywhere in the world the state controls the army, but in Algeria the army controls the state?

[Ait Ahmed] I fully agree and believe it is right and accurate.

[Huwaydi] How do you explain President Zeroual's call for presidential elections before the end of 1995?

[Ait Ahmed] This is a new attempt by the secret government to give legitimacy to its monopoly of power. It was a shock to everyone. It was a surprise to me personally.

[Huwaydi] Why?

[Ait Ahmed] We were engaged in a dialogue with the authority for more than five months, trying to find a peaceful and democratic solution to the Algerian problem. Three leaders of our party, the Socialist Forces Front, held talks with three army generals. During these five months, the idea of presidential elections was never raised. When it was announced, we realized then that they were not serious during the dialogue they held with us, just as they were not serious during all the rounds of the national dialogue that have taken place until now.

[Huwaydi] Do you think there is still a possibility for a peaceful solution, despite the dominance of the extermination group, and how?

[Ait Ahmed] In my opinion, the opportunity has not been lost yet. Despite what happened, Algeria is still well, because the people have not entered the armed confrontation battle yet. The battle now is between the government and the Islamists only. This means that the ghost of civil war is still distant. This is a positive point that must always be taken into consideration. One more thing: We still hold important cards to exert pressure for a peaceful and democratic solution. We possess the "democratic contract" card, which we want the Algerian parties to sign. If we agree on this contract, we can isolate the government politically if it refuses to join it. We are continuing to urge the government and other influential power centers in the country to join it. We also have the card of outside pressure by the international community, particularly the Mediterranean states. We are definitely against foreign intervention in Algeria. But we do not consider such international pressure as intervention. It is like the international pressure exercised against the East European countries to topple their dictatorial regimes.

[Huwaydi] Have you come to Madrid for this purpose?

[Ait Ahmed] Yes. Our contacts are continuing with the various European governments, particularly the governments of the Mediterranean states.

[Huwaydi] I heard that you have suggested that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali send an envoy to help solve the Algerian problem, as happened in Somalia, Afghanistan, and other states.

[Ait Ahmed] This is true. We wonder why the secretary general has sent envoys to help extinguish fires in various parts of the world—and some of these envoys are Algerian—and has left the fire in Algeria burning to destroy everything.

[Huwaydi] It is being said that France will veto any international pressure regarding the Algerian issue.

[Ait Ahmed] France does not have such right. It seems that some of its leaders do not want to be convinced that Algeria has gained its independence from them. Anyhow, I think that France has lost its credibility when it talks about the Algerian issue. What it says on this issue no longer receives any attention or respect from the other European countries.

[Huwaydi] What is your opinion about the extent of the violence in Algeria, both on the part of the armed Islamists and the security services?

[Ait Ahmed] Suffice it to say that the news from Algeria now make me sick and causes endless physical and psychological pain to me. Regrettably, violence has become an Algerian characteristic, formed as a result of the harshness and ferocity of 130 years of occupation. Perhaps I will not be exaggerating if I say that modern Algerian history can be summed up in one word, "violence."

[Huwaydi] Do you not think that there is something sharp in the Algerian nature that makes people become emotional and angry quickly?

[Ait Ahmed] I fully agree. I think that the real problem we are facing is that such emotions are occasionally channeled in the wrong direction or utilized for the wrong purpose.

[Huwaydi] What is your opinion about the attempts to exploit the tribal card in the existing conflict in Algeria?

[Ait Ahmed] My opinion is that the government and some figures and parties, which do not enjoy popular support, have tried to stir up the tribes to change the course of the Algerian problem. But they have failed. They wanted to depict the problem as between tribes and Arabs to divert attention from the fact that it is a crisis between the Algerian people and the secret government, which has been controlling the fate of the country and the people for the past three decades.

[Huwaydi] Are you optimistic?

[Ait Ahmed] If a politician suffers from despair, he must quit. This, I have not done.

*Military Containment Campaign Described

95AF0035A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Dec 94 pp 24-26

[Report by al-Tahir Hammad in Algiers]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since November, the Algerian army has been waging a general war against the strongholds of the armed groups, using warplanes and napalm bombs. It has also been conducting wide-scale sweeps and scoring major victories. But what has taken place until now is just the first chapter in a strategy prepared by the military command and approved by the government to achieve a final solution to the problem. In the following investigative report, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI will reveal all the details of the strategy to exterminate [isti'sal] the armed fundamentalists and the details of deals concluded by the government for highly sophisticated weapons to ensure the liquidation of the armed groups before the middle of next year, as some foreign intelligence services, which saw the weapons, have testified. In response, the extremists have prepared a scorched earth strategy that includes assassinations and indiscriminate bomb attacks.

"The second Algerian war is also beginning on 1 November, 40 years after the first war," an Algerian diplomat said, commenting on the speech delivered by President Liamine Zeroual to mark the 40th anniversary of the Algerian Revolution on 1 November 1954. In his speech, President Zeroual announced that the dialogue between the government and the Islamists has failed and that presidential elections will take place at the end of 1995.

It was clear this time that the negotiations President Zeroual and his advisers held with leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in the past nine months had reached a deadlock. During these negotiations, the authorities released many FIS leaders and moved Abbas Medani and Ali Belhaj from prison and placed them under house arrest. The seriousness of these negotiations, however, has always been doubted by both sides. The government now realizes that the only solution is war and further bloodshed. It also recognizes that what Algeria went through in the past two and a half years was a real civil war, which could become more vicious and bloody.

Shortly after Zeroual's speech, field operations confirmed that the situation in Algeria had entered the "final" bone-breaking stage, and that the two hardline groups—one in the government and one among the armed fundamentalist groups—were the sole key players in the arena. The first group is led by General Mohamed Lamari, who has been promoted to the rank of General. He has become the strongman in the army and the officer responsible for carrying out the exterminators' plan. According to this plan, the armed forces should be given the chance to resolve the situation militarily and liquidate the armed Islamist groups. The other side is led by the "Armed Islamist Group," which has dominated the other groups through its hardline policy and convinced them that "armed jihad" is the only way to take over power—all the power—and that negotiations, dialogue, and settlements are unnecessary.

Informed sources think that one reason the recent dialogue between the government and the FIS leaders had failed was that the government found out that Abbas Medani and Ali Belhaj no longer have any power over the armed elements. It discovered that their imprisonment not only led to their disappearance from the arena. They were replaced by new leaders and a new command that did not recognize their leadership.

According to information received by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, most of the military command was never convinced of the dialogue option and of the idea of establishing a government coalition with the Islamists through a "Sudanese-style" solution. From the start, the military commanders drew a red line for President Zeroual. They left him to negotiate to secure a statement from Medani and Belhaj on a truce and an end to violence to cause disputes and a rift inside the Islamic movement. Meanwhile, senior officers, led by Khaled Nezzar, Mohamed Lamari, and Toufik Medienne, were preparing a military plan to deal a crushing blow to the armed groups. Within the framework of this plan, General Nezzar visited Washington, where there is still a group in the U.S. Administration, particularly in the National Security Council, that favors the military approach. Lamari visited Paris. Other military delegations visited several western and eastern European states, including Russia, to purchase sophisticated weapons to strengthen the Algerian security forces and launch a general successful war to crush the armed groups before March 1995. The government would then set a date for presidential elections in which the most favorable candidate would be President Zeroual himself.

The military command's plan called for mobilizing all the armed forces, numbering about 136,000 troops, and for launching the biggest campaign of its kind against the strongholds of the armed groups in all parts of the country. At the same time, the army would distribute light weapons to many "trustworthy" citizens. Unidentified "paramilitary" groups would be established to carry out assassinations and executions against the armed fundamentalists or those suspected of belonging to or supporting the armed groups.

Before the beginning of November, several ships arrived at Algiers port, loaded with sophisticated weapons and military equipment purchased from Russia, Poland, Germany, Italy, the United States, France, and other states. Until last week, ships were still being seen unloading their cargo amid strict security measures. At the same time, cargo aircraft unloaded weapons and military equipment at Houari Boumedienne Airport between 0300 and 0400 daily, using a runway far from sight. The weapons were moved quickly to army units deployed all over the country, particularly in the capital and its suburbs.

Western military sources have revealed that the government has concluded deals for the purchase of huge quantities of weapons from France and other states. The weapons included Ecureuil helicopters from France and Puma helicopters from Romania. One important deal involves modernizing about 60 MI-24 Soviet military helicopters and equipping them with new engines, night vision systems, and infrared guided weapons. According to the plan drawn up by the Algerian military command in cooperation with Russian and European experts, who arrived in Algeria recently, these helicopters will form the backbone of the final extermination war against the armed groups. The new strategy of the military command underlines the need to win the "night war" launched by the armed groups. Moving easily at night, these groups ambush the regular forces and attack their barracks and positions. Helicopters will make it easier for the regular forces to attack the positions of the armed groups in the mountains and forests, which cannot be reached easily by the special forces or accurately attacked by warplanes. Thanks to the new helicopter engines and weapon systems, the military command hopes to achieve decisive victories in the guerrilla war. It hopes to monitor all movements by the armed groups, tracking them down and liquidating them. It also hopes to prevent them from hiding in the fields, houses, and even in bunkers in cities or villages. Helicopters with night vision systems not only can spot the movements of the armed groups and attack them, they also have monitoring equipment that can even detect people up to two meters underground. In other words, they can detect gunmen in their bunkers through special thermo-sensitive equipment that sense body heat.

Under this strategy, two military helicopters would be used on every mission, one to pinpoint the location and movements of the gunmen, the second to open fire, using information and guidance it receives from the first helicopter. The plan also calls for using MI-8 support helicopters that can carry more than 25 commandos. Military experts say that these helicopters can form an air strike force comparable to assault tanks. Six pilots would be enough to wage a war as effective as one waged by 1,000 ground troops.

To carry out this plan, helicopter crews would have to undergo complex training. According to information, scores of Algerian pilots and technicians have been sent abroad for training. The modernization work on these helicopters is expected to be completed at the beginning of next year. Military experts have arrived in Algeria to make preparations for this plan. Western security sources say that 15 teams capable of piloting and maintaining these aircraft efficiently would be sufficient to inflict major military defeats upon the armed groups and make it difficult for them to reorganize. They add that if this strategy is applied as planned, and based on the latest military technology in modern guerrilla warfare and the technological lessons derived from the Gulf war, it would be possible for the Algerian government to liquidate the armed groups totally or almost totally before the middle of 1995.

Perhaps for this reason, supporters of Gen. Lamari have expressed their conviction that the armed groups would be liquidated within three months. The extermination group is more convinced of its ability to militarily destroy the armed groups, because the plan envisages the use of helicopters and all other available weapons and military means, even in the capital, to wage this all-out war. This means using Mig aircraft and napalm bombs to attack the Islamists' strongholds and carrying out wide-scale sweeps. The banner, previously raised by Lamari when he was commander of the antiterrorist special units, is not to bring back prisoners or wounded, but to kill them all.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned that the Algerian intelligence service has dispatched "assassination squads" to several European states that harbor Islamic networks, which organize the smuggling of weapons to Algeria. These countries include Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Spain, and Italy. The assassination squads will have the task of liquidating the leaders of these networks to stop new military supplies from reaching the armed fundamentalists.

There is no doubt that the extermination group now constitutes the majority in the supreme military command and among brigade and regional commanders, who found themselves facing the choice of "kill or be killed." Therefore, it is insisting that all available means be placed at its disposal and that an iron fist policy be adopted in all fields.

Consequently, the government moved from a state of emergency to the exception state [halat al-istithna']. It began restraining the local press and imposing military censorship on it to prevent it from publishing reports about the fighting. It now allows the press to only publish official statements. Many newspapers have, therefore, been suspended.

Meanwhile, the government has launched an international public relations campaign among various states. The campaign is not designed to improve its image, but to prevent any attempt to distort it in the coming stage; i.e., to forestall any attempt, particularly by the United States, to criticize its security policy, and to secure a commitment by these states to keep silent and maintain neutrality in the worst situations. The government is trying to convince the European countries of the dangers that could result from a takeover by the fundamentalists and the repercussions this could have on the Arab Maghreb and Mediterranean states. The government is trying to emphasize that it has demonstrated its good intentions when it tried to negotiate with the Islamists and that it is continuing to express its desire to return to democracy. It says that the proof is that it has set a date for presidential elections. The government says it is trying now to establish a secure climate for these elections, for the return to democracy in Algeria, and for launching a serious, fruitful dialogue with the moderate Islamists after eliminating the extremists among them.

At any rate, it seems that the Algerian government has decided to eliminate the armed groups, and there will be no reversing this policy, despite what foreign states, including the United States, may say. An Algerian official close to the military commanders says that this policy will be implemented even if the United States, which has intervened in more than one place in the world, objects. He says the Republicans' control of Congress will undoubtedly ease Washington's enthusiasm in supporting the Islamic extremists, particularly if we prove our ability to deal a big blow to them. He adds: Our problem with the Americans is like the proverb that says "the one who counts the lashes is not in the same position as the one who receives them."

According to information, the appeal made by Anwar Heddam, head of the FIS parliamentary mission, to the countries of the world, to break off their diplomatic relations with Algeria does not bother the Algerian regime, which no longer objects to being ignored by international diplomacy. The regime wants to be left alone to resolve its problem with the extremists in its own way by using cauterization as the solution.

Furthermore, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned that there is a trend inside the military command to carry out a more explicit military rule, including suspending the Constitution, declaring martial law, forming a military government, and handing over the management of state institutions to military commanders. It is known that the hardline group has made such a plan during the presidency of Ali Kafi, and prepared lists of more than 1,000 senior officers and former officers to take over the administration of the state and implement military rule in all fields.

Today there is agreement inside the military command that they should not allow the Islamists to seized power or participate in the government, and the only solution is to eliminate them by force. It has been noticed that the government has been trying to win the people's support and end their neutrality. Most Algerians have been maintaining a neutral position since the start of fighting in February 1992. For the first time, some Algerian towns have begun to witness spontaneous demonstrations by thousands of citizens, raising pictures of President Zeroual and shouting progovernment and antifundamentalist slogans. The government is seeking to mobilize the people against the extremists and arouse public indignation against them by widely publicizing the indiscriminate assassinations, slaughter, decapitations, and other crimes committed by the various armed groups, particularly crimes in which young girls and their families are killed because they oppose "convenience marriages." For this purpose, the fundamentalists kidnap the girls and terrorize their families.

The armed groups, in turn, have decided to respond to the government's extermination plan with a plan of their own involving an escalation of the fighting, "blind terrorism," and a general war in most parts of the country. According to information, the armed Islamic groups have drawn up a "scorched earth" plan, involving ambushes against the armed forces, the assassination of state officials, supporters of the regime, intellectuals, doctors and engineers, and the blowing up of schools, official institutions, and railways. This plan also calls for escalation in all fields, beginning with the destruction of all the Algerian economic infrastructures. It calls for the destruction of oil and gas installations and the assassination of foreign company employees, particularly those working in these fields, to drive their companies out of Algeria. This campaign is not directed against the Americans and American companies, which occupy an important position in these fields. The armed groups also decided to assassinate senior government officials to prove that they are still capable and in control, despite the repressive measures and sweeps in which at least ten armed fundamentalists are killed every day. They drew up plans to spread what they call "blind terrorism" by detonating booby-trapped cars and time bombs in official institutions and crowded public places to inflict the largest number of casualties and prompt the populace finally to lose hope in the government's ability to protect them. According to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI's information, the armed groups have begun preparing for a bloodier war against the security forces. They have asked their networks abroad to supply them with sophisticated weapons, including antitank and antiaircraft missiles. While the European states have intensified their security measures to check the smuggling of weapons from their territories by these networks, the armed groups have found other ways to obtain weapons. In addition to importing arms from East European countries directly, they receive weapons smuggled through Libya and the southern desert. Arms smugglers, cooperating with radical fundamentalist networks in Niger, Mali, Sudan, or Libya, have recently intensified their activity.

To be sure, the Algerian armed forces have scored major victories and achieved progress in more than one area controlled by the armed fundamentalists. They have carried out wide-scale sweeps using warplanes, helicopters, and napalm bombs, and dealt painful blows to the strongholds of the Islamists in all parts of the country. These attacks have resulted in huge fires in the forests and mountains used as hideouts by the Islamists. Some fires have extended to the Tunisian border. The Islamists have been forced to pull back from many cities and villages because of fierce attacks by the special units, which number about 40,000 troops, under the direct command of Gen. Lamari. Official statistics show that November was the bloodiest month in the history of this war. More than 400 armed Islamists and about 20 security men were killed. Reports by foreign embassies and some Western intelligence services agree that violence has reached a level unknown in Algeria before. But they add that the real casualty figure is much higher than this. Some embassies say more than 300 people are killed every day. Intelligence reports say that the number of victims in last month's battles—which are continuing this month with the same ferocity—was more than 1,000 every week, and that more than 35,000 people have been killed since the beginning of the war less than three years ago.

The question being raised today is: Will Gen. Lamari be able to eliminate the armed groups by force when several past attempts have failed? Supporters of Lamari respond in the affirmative. They say that recently the armed forces have, for the first time, obtained a clear mandate to declare a general war against the armed groups. They were given the green light to use all necessary military means, and the results will appear soon. Lamari's supporters add that the arrival of a new shipment of sophisticated weapons within a few weeks will make it possible to score a final victory, and President Zeroual will have the chance to call for presidential elections before next June.

The pessimists, however, say that the 40,000 troops of the special units on which Lamari is depending cannot actually hold onto the areas they seize from the armed groups, because they have to move to other areas to wage similar battles. They add that France mobilized more than 400,000 troops in 1962 and could not achieve victory. The pessimists note that maintaining the army's integrity in a general war of this kind would be difficult. But the extermination plan's supporters emphasize that the danger of division in the army is exaggerated. The people have begun objecting to the heavy price they have to pay for the armed groups' operations. In the worst senario, the army would deal a very painful blow to these groups, forcing the moderate Islamists to return to the table of negotiations—but on the army's terms.

Security Service, 'Terrorist' Activities

7 Killed in Algiers

LD1401093995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces report that they have eliminated a group of seven terrorists at the Boumaaza housing estate, in the Leveilley district of Hussein Dey, in Algiers.

Networks Dismantled

LD1401185895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement issued by the security services today says that security forces recently dismantled two terrorist networks in Bouira and Biskra. The statement says that after several investigation and search operations, the security forces in Bouira dismantled a terrorist network composed of 68 persons who were providing supplies to the armed groups in the Bouira region. These persons implicated in cases of helping and supporting the armed groups by means of collecting money and clothes, and offering shelter to terrorists, have been brought to justice and the investigating judge has put 53 of them in custody, while the other have been put under judicial control.

The security services statement adds that another terrorist network consisting of 19 members has been dismantled by the security forces in Biskra. They were brought to justice and put in custody.

Meanwhile, the statement says, the security forces eliminated six terrorists between Monday and Thursday in Mostaganem, Media, Bouira, Algiers, and Tipaza. During these operations, the security forces recovered a quantity of arms and ammunition, and 12 home-made bombs.

Another statement by the security services says that six members of the FLN were killed last Thursday at 0700 by armed terrorists in the region of Lakhla, Ghelizane province. [passage omitted]

Actions in Bouira, Constantine

LD1601213195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services says that the security services yesterday killed five terrorists in Ouled Aissa, Lakhdaria municipality, Bouira Province, and recovered a Mat 49 submachine gun, two hunting rifles, an automatic pistol, and eight defensive [as heard] grenades.

The security services statement added that on the basis of information about the presence of eight terrorists in a house in the Bou Nouara region, Ouled Hammoun, Constantine Province, the security services launched an operation last Friday during which they succeeded in killing the eight terrorists and recovered a machine gun, a Smirnov semiautomatic rifle, and four hunting rifles.

10 Killed; 4 Arrested

LD1701190095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security service said today that their forces have succeeded in killing ten terrorists, arresting four others, and recovering quantities of arms in the provinces of Algiers, Constantine, Boumerdes, Relizane, Sidi Bel Abbes, and Skikda between 15 and 17 January.

Egypt

U.S. Said Trying To Forge Wafd-Muslim Brotherhood Alliance

NC1801080695 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 16 Jan 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States is ardently mediating between the Wafd Party and the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] in Egypt with a view to forging a political front. This front will combine the Wafd's liberalism, which Washington has sponsored for a long time, and the MB's fundamentalism, which the United States has taken important strides to support.

Mubarak Leaves for Paris on Short Visit

NC1801090595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0832 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Paris this morning on a short working visit during which he will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

Mubarak is accompanied by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Presidential Office Chief Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who arrived in Paris from Morocco yesterday, will join the delegation.

Al-Baz Interviewed on Arab Affairs, U.S. Ties

NC1701220795 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Jan 95 pp 16-19, 70

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, by Dr. Salwa Abu-Sa'dah in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-Sa'dah] Why was the Alexandria summit held at this particular time? Was the Arab rush toward Israel the reason behind it?

[Al-Baz] No. This was not the reason behind the summit. For some Arab states to show response and express readiness to explore the opportunities of dealing with Israel is something that does not scare us. We were the first country to enter into a relationship with Israel, so this will not harm us. What has happened so far does not go beyond some symbolic, rather than actual, measures.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Meaning?

[Al-Baz] Israel wants to make sure that the largest number of Arab states is now opening up to it and that it is now accepted in the region. However, we want bridges to be built between Israel and the Arab states and the beginning of contacts between the two to be governed by a vision of the present and the future so that these ties can last.

[Abu-Sa'dah] So this is an Israeli internal demand?

[Al-Baz] The Israeli Government needs to show its people the fruits of the peaceful attitude it has pursued. We want to encourage the Israeli Government to continue this attitude and want the Israeli citizen to have the impression that the policy adopted in Israel is a peaceful policy, although it is a hard-line one in some ways. If Israel seeks actual peace and coexistence with all the peoples in the region, we do not object to that.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Then where does the harm lie?

[Al-Baz] The harm will come if some Arab states show readiness to establish good relations with Israel regardless of the outcome of talks between Syria and Israel, between Israel and Lebanon, and between Israel and the Palestinians, as if they were not concerned with them, and express readiness to hold economic deals or exchange trade [with Israel], although we do not see any Arab state thinking of doing so.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But some projects have already been thought of, such as the pipeline between Qatar and Israel. Doesn't this harm the Suez Canal?

[Al-Baz] The fear about the Suez Canal from some of the projects, including that of the pipeline, is much exaggerated. First of all, there are no substitute projects for the Suez Canal, because any project to link the Mediterranean to the Red Sea would be highly costly, more than the economy of any country could afford. The other thing is that there is no need for such a project since a canal already exists, operates at the highest level, and work is under way to deepen and expand it. As for the project to dig a canal leading to the Dead Sea, it will not compete with the Suez Canal or affect it one way or another.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Then what is going on in terms of deals between some Arab states and Israel?

[Al-Baz] It does not concern states. So far, not a single Arab state, beyond those that have made peace with Israel, has established relations with Israel. What happened is that some Arab businessmen have committed themselves to projects in Israel, and this does not scare us because it is in the nature of peace. Another thing is that these projects are the result of an agreement between an Arab businessman and an Israeli businessman, so it does not pose any danger to the Egyptian economy.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Were these controls discussed at the Alexandria summit and has a certain formula for their implementation been laid down by the three leaders?

[Al-Baz] The three parties cannot discuss policies binding to the other Arab countries in their absence. We cannot lay down criteria and controls binding to the other parties because this is not our business and it would be an encroachment on the rights of the other Arab states.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What was, therefore, the cause for holding the summit?

[Al-Baz] It was our desire to boost our cooperation politically and economically. Since the current Arab climate is not suitable for a full Arab collective action, we thought it was feasible that these three central important countries cooperate, but not far from the rest of the Arab countries. The three countries have been described by a prominent Arab politician as the decisionmaking and balance-striking countries. However, I personally would not go that far to consider them the decisionmaking countries, meaning that they decide and others follow.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But the current Arab situation does not allow this to happen.

[Al-Baz] This is true. It would have been difficult for the others to take part in the action. It is also difficult to gather all the Arabs in an expanded Arab summit. This is because of Iraq's position concerning the second Gulf war.

A large number of Arab countries would object to holding an Arab summit with Iraq participating. They have reservations and they have demands that Iraq should implement.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Is Egypt currently trying to bridge the gap between those countries and Iraq?

[Al-Baz] Our role cannot be described as an attempt to convince the Gulf states to begin cooperating with Iraq. This is because their fears and rejection are legitimate. Furthermore, Kuwait still has the prisoner problem.

The recent Iraqi dispatch of some troops, although it was not meant to reach Kuwait or to carry out a military operation and had a political connotation only, was bad timing. It made many people in the Gulf believe that Iraq might continue to be a threat and might resort to pursuing hostile policies against them. As for the way to end this situation, we just cannot advise the Gulf states to forget the past or to tell Iraq how to eliminate such fears.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Has Egypt any specific concept concerning these actions and initiatives, even with the presence of Saddam Husayn in power, and are there any diplomatic communication channels?

[Al-Baz] No, because we do not believe that this is natural and logical. It would be incompatible with the diplomatic norm for us to tell Iraq to do this or that. Also, many fears of the Gulf states and peoples are not specified. In other words, the fears could be prompted by any possible Iraqi troop movement or threat to use force, or resort to semi-military and sabotage operations.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Is it possible that Iraq might embark on such actions, having recognized Kuwait and its official borders?

[Al-Baz] Iraq recognized Kuwait's independence and borders as decided by the border demarcation committee. This is a positive step in the right direction. It could be used to complete the other steps so that Iraq would become an effective member of the Arab family. We indeed want to alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi people and then have Iraq rejoin the Arab family. I cannot imagine that Iraq will remain outside the Arab fold forever. But to achieve this step, Iraq must first implement all the Gulf states' demands and conditions. Iraq cannot represent a threat against any Arab country. What represents the threats are some Iraqi policies.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Did Saudi Arabia make any specific demands during the Alexandria summit concerning Iraq?

[Al-Baz] No, because the discussions did not touch on the details of this issue. The leaders discussed the issue that if Iraq continues to adopt positive steps concerning the Kuwaiti prisoners and if it proves that its policies will not be a threat, it would be natural for the Gulf and other states to return Iraq to the Arab fold.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Has Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid been requested to undertake specific tasks in the coming stage?

[Al-Baz] No, he has not. In the absence of the remaining Arab countries, the three states alone cannot tell the secretary general what is requested of the Arab League. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid was informed about the talks.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What other topics were discussed during the summit?

[Al-Baz] Consolidating joint Arab action was one of the major topics. The meeting was not designed to constitute an axis, which means a grouping of certain states against others. This is far from the truth.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But experience shows that the Damascus Declaration states have fears concerning security. In two previous cases, the Gulf states resorted to foreign powers. What is your comment?

[Al-Baz] All must be convinced that when it comes to higher strategic -issues, priority should be given to joint action, even if there are problems. However, everybody admits that these differing visions on the various issues do not preclude a unity of strategic goals. The common factors are far more than differences. Groupings exist and operate despite existing problems among their members.

[Abu-Sa'dah] How then can we emerge from this predicament and the present Arab decline?

[Al-Baz] A collective Arab action will be rejected temporarily in many Arab states. Therefore, the three states that held the Alexandria summit are trying to intensify cooperation among them. They do not belong to a specific regional grouping. Their move might lead to a more comprehensive collective action in the coming stage through the Arab League, which we want to be the framework that embraces all Arab action. This does not preclude bilateral or tripartite relations.

[Abu-Sa'dah] There is much talk about the motives for holding the summit at that particular time.

[Al-Baz] The summit was not held because Syria has shifted from a certain thing. It is not true that Saudi Arabia held the summit because it feared contacts by the Gulf states to establish relations and communication with Israel. What happened was that the Egyptian leadership saw that conditions in the Arab region and the challenges facing it required a certain level of Arab coordination.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Why did Israel think that it was the target of that summit?

[Al-Baz] There is no justification for the position of those who objected to the summit and had their fears about it in Israel, except that they believed that it was in their interest to create Arab discord and preclude any Arab consensus.

[Abu-Sa'dah] We now come to the Egyptian line of action. Some say that we are heading East, then West, although there are some established principles.

[Al-Baz] This is a wrong presumption, because it is based on the wrong hypothesis. They say that Egypt has no clear vision in its moves to the East and West. We have a clear vision. Our moves are based on what exists already and what is bound to come. This is done on a scientific basis and not on the spur of the moment or according to whimsical visions or fears.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Then what are our main avenues of movement?

[Al-Baz] Our political activity does not seek to establish a certain axis. When we joined the Arab Cooperation Council [grouping Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen], our goal was not to establish an axis. The fact that we felt some frustration over the failure to achieve the hopes pinned on the Damascus Declaration does not mean that we sought to achieve specific gains. Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the consequences resulting from it, we thought it necessary to create some kind of reassurance in the region, basically from the security aspect. We want the Arab states to view their security from a strategic perspective and not on the basis of a transitional or a limited viewpoint. Our joining the Damascus Declaration was intended to chart a collective vision for the declaration's Arab members as much as possible, and the declaration was open to new members.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But is the dialogue about security over or is it still open for debate? Some say that the Gulf states need to agree on a common formula for security in the Gulf first and then Egypt and Syria could step in to define the type and nature of their contribution, which does not necessarily have to be confined to troops. Their input could be in the form of ideas to define security in the Gulf, which is part of the overall pan-Arab security.

[Al-Baz] Some imagined that there would be a quick security alliance grouping Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf states and a huge economic cooperation among them. The question is not that we want something in exchange for our security support for the Gulf states. Bilateral cooperation is possible and could be done on a firm and strong basis. What we really need is to chart a concept of the collective Arab security and define its goal. The Damascus Declaration could be a step in that direction. We did not want the declaration to lead to the creation of a common entity dealing with common security and economic cooperation, because that would mean it would turn into a bloc and an axis, something that we reject, both for the Damascus Declaration or for the tripartite grouping that held its first meeting in Alexandria. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Sa'dah] I would like to ask you about what is written in the U.S. press regarding Egypt's violations of the sanctions imposed on Libya.

[Al-Baz] Contrary to what some U.S. media circles claim, Egypt is not violating the international resolutions and sanctions. If indeed we are, let them go to the Security Council and submit a complaint to the committee dealing with sanctions so that it could verify the matter. The Egyptian Government does not violate. Let them give us the names and we will investigate the matter. But to accuse us in such a demagogic manner out of their belief that they can put pressure on us or extort us, we are not afraid of anyone, not America or anybody else.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What did President Mubarak discuss with [Israeli Foreign Minister] Shim'on Peres in their latest meeting?

[Al-Baz] The talks between President Mubarak and Peres were good and were conducted in the context of the normal ties of two states linked by a relationship of peace as well as a joint interest in broadening the scope of this peace throughout the Arab region. We in Egypt are interested in intensifying and speeding up the endeavors on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. It is not correct for some circles in Israel to say: We have speeded up things on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks, so we must slow things down on the other tracks. Each party is responsible for moving according to the available pace. Syria is ready for negotiations without interruptions, and it proved that when it did not hesitate to discuss the security requirements and arrangements at a technical level. Syria accepted peace on the basis of the legitimate resolutions and did not accept peace for bargaining, and we support her in this. The meeting also touched on the need to remedy the shortcomings that have started to appear on the Palestinian track, leading to a delay in implementing some measures concerning the Palestinian side.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Are there specific indications that Israel is trying to separate the Lebanese track from the Syrian one?

[Al-Baz] Some people in Israel are trying to establish the principle of wagering on Arab contradictions. They are alarmed by any Arab rapprochement and are trying to take each state individually. Any keen observer knows that these things do not work. This will not serve Israel's interest because that interest lies first and foremost in establishing a permanent and sustained peace. The notion that any good thing for Arabs involves harm for Israel belongs to the stage of war, not the age of peace.

[Abu-Sa'dah] After more than five rounds of multilateral negotiations, Israel still demands confidence-building measures at the disarmament talks. What is your comment?

[Al-Baz] Great. Suppose that we talked about confidence-building measures at the disarmament committee, specifically in nuclear weapons. If we find that Israel is negotiating with us seriously and objectively within that framework, we will take this into consideration and weigh it together with the entire situation.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Do you think that this issue will affect Egyptian-Israeli relations in the coming stage?

[Al-Baz] It will not hamper the course of relations between us. We believe that as long as a peace treaty has been concluded and the two parties have bound themselves by it, it is better to limit the difference between us on this point within that framework and insist on using our utmost ability to persuade. It is not in our interest to put Israel in a predicament or put pressure on it in a naive manner.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What do you say to Rabin's statements in Korea that Israel would take parts of the lands that were under the British mandate?

[Al-Baz] I believe that all these statements must be handled through negotiations. First of all, we are not bound by what the Israeli prime minister says. Let him say what he wants. We say otherwise. If he pursues that approach in the final phase of negotiations, we will have reached a dead end.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's reference to Gaza and Jericho by the term "areas," the Israeli term?

[Al-Baz] I do not think that this was deliberately said to give a certain implication. Different names have been used over three different stages. At the beginning there was Gaza-Jericho and the West Bank, which became Gaza-Jericho First, and then the Palestinian exercise of powers in the remainder of the West Bank. Foreign states are not as sensitive when it comes to names. When Christopher says the areas, this does not mean that he is adopting the Israeli concept.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Has Egypt made a decision preventing the entry of Palestinians to its lands via Gaza?

[Al-Baz] This has not happened. We are adopting certain measures to protect out border gates in all directions to make sure that no infiltration will occur to disturb our national security and to check identifications to prevent certain elements from sneaking in and disturbing our national security.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Don't you expect the signing of the nonproliferation treaty to affect our relations with America?

[Al-Baz] This is unthinkable because it means that maintaining good relations with America makes it imperative on us to adopt all American ideas. This would be an odd situation, since they do not adopt all our ideas. Why then would we be bound to do that? Presenting viewpoints on the various issues is permissible.

[Abu Sa'dah] Do you expect any pressure from them?

[Al-Baz] They have not tried to pressure us or to twist an arm. They have talked to us as a friendly state. We also have listened to them. But the decision is ours and according to our interest, particularly if the issue pertains to our pan-Arab security. I just cannot please the United States by any step that is bound to threaten pan-Arab security.

[Abu-Sa'dah] This is one of the spots of tension that has engulfed the U.S.-Egyptian ties over the past few months. We want Dr. al-Baz, who visited the United States, to give us the background of this crisis.

[Al-Baz] First of all, I visited the United States at the invitation of the U.S. Foreign Affairs Council to discuss the future of the situation in the Middle East from an Arab-Israeli perspective. Prior to my return, I found out that some media circles were trying to create a furor concerning the issue of relations. It was, therefore, natural for me to discuss the causes of the campaign with media men and to discuss the repercussions of this campaign with some officials. I found out that the U.S. officials have nothing to do with these issues. They don't even approve of any attack on Egypt. They also believe that the U.S. media cannot address Egypt with a hostile method because they know that we do not accept any pressure. How could we accept pressure from the press if we do not accept pressure from the governments?

[Abu-Sa'dah] It was published that you met with U.S. writer Jim Hoagland on 3 November. This writer wrote an article in THE WASHINGTON POST. Is this true?

[Al-Baz] Yes, indeed. I met him because I knew him when he was a correspondent in Cairo. I discussed his articles with him. It is said that Egypt violates the UN resolutions without specifying the violations. They link the violations to the presence of special relations between sons of [Egyptian] officials [and Libya].

[Abu-Sa'dah] Are there sons of Egyptian officials cooperating with the Libyans?

[Al-Baz] Absolutely not. There is not a single son of an Egyptian official or a close relative to an official who has relations with the Libyan Jamahiriyah. This is an empty talk. We are ready to refute this talk. We have nothing to hide.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But during his conversation with you the U.S. writer Hoagland told you that he was prepared to publish a denial in the same place if you presented anything proving the opposite. Why didn't you refute the allegations officially?

[Al-Baz] The issue is not like that. They did not substantiate the incidents with specific information. All that was written was based on rumors, as they themselves said.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Who is behind these rumors and what is their purpose?

[Al-Baz] The propagators of these rumors are known to us. Certain elements made these rumors. A group of American and European swindlers, which includes officials, lawyers, former diplomats, military men, and agents from the U.S. intelligence service, had contacted the Libyan Government and offered their services to end the dispute for huge sums of money.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Can you give names and the sums of money received?

[Al-Baz] The Libyan side has the names. I personally know a large number of them. I will not mention their names. They had ranking positions.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Did Libya agree to use them?

[Al-Baz] Libya sometimes cooperated with some of them because it wants the crisis to end by any means. When Egypt started to clarify matters and facilitate communication through certain channels, these elements felt that they had lost the gold mine. This is one group. But the other group represented the families of the Pan Am victims, who thought that Egypt was protecting Libya against punishment and that this would make them lose their compensation. It is with extreme regret that the family of former Libyan official Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared, has joined the families of the victims.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Can the campaign against Egypt be linked to the Republicans' victory in the elections?

[Al-Baz] Absolutely not. The Republicans' victory will have no effect on Egyptian-American relations and cooperation programs between us. I am not saying assistance or aid, because there is cooperation. The annual surplus in the American balance of trade is much higher than the aid America pays us. The Republicans and others are aware of this. We have friends among the Republicans. It remains that the U.S. Administration, both President Clinton and Vice President Gore, is positive in its cooperation with us. The Republican arguments focus mostly on the domestic front. Besides, they cannot duck their foreign responsibilities. Assuming that they pursue a different approach, we will assume a position. But all signs indicate that there will be no change.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Does the issue of economic reform represent a point of dispute between the two countries, and do you believe in the soundness of the political approach that links assistance to the implementation of economic reforms in Egypt, particularly since America tried that approach once or twice in the 1980s?

[Al-Baz] Economic reform is an Egyptian matter and not an American demand. American reform has many shortcomings; it is an indebted state. If we have a debt of some $20 billion or more, it has a debt of $4 trillion. It hopes to cover its budget deficit in 2002.

Moreover, no one can understand our economic conditions as well as we do. We have the examples of economic reform and the shift to a market economy in Eastern Europe. They think that all states can apply these measures. This is not acceptable. We are restructuring our economy in a way to preserve the interests of the Egyptian people and as part of the general Egyptian revival. If some of the policies do not appeal to them, this is not our fault. But they did not try to link assistance to these policies or to force certain conditions on us.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about the IMF and its demands?

[Al-Baz] The party that has a say in and demands concerning our economic reform policy is the IMF. Contrary to what many people believe—that these establishments are mere American tools—America has some influence on these establishments. But in many cases, it acts outside the framework of American policy. When the IMF demands that we devalue the Egyptian pound and change the rate of exchange, this does not necessarily represent an American position. The Americans have rarely talked to us about that matter. We will not draw our policies in light of the whims of some IMF officials. This is totally rejected and we will not accept it regardless of the consequences. We want an Egyptian rather than a Western or international reform program.

Furthermore, the World Bank is interested in liberating trade and privatization. We apply privatization in an Egyptian framework so that Egypt can benefit. But if privatization involves harm—if for instance we are requested to sell our establishments cheaply or to give up establishments that render services that will no longer be available if they are sold to foreigners—we will not continue the privatization process.

The IMF and others complained that we were not serious in privatization. They wanted us to leave the door wide open. We rejected this. We invest some 120 billion Egyptian pounds in the public sector. We are not prepared to waste that sum, or even part of it, when we are direly in need of every "penny."

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about cutting back on U.S. aid? Is that possible, and what are the alternatives?

[Al-Baz] First of all, it is not right to continue to rely on foreign aid, whether from America or others, forever. We are a state with a population of 60 million people who have many privileges in terms of their location and role at the Arab and African levels; we have capabilities and experience in ancient industries that we started at the same time with Japan; we have a wide sector of educated people. We cannot accept relying forever on foreign aid. I think that this is a temporary and transitional stage. We are prepared for any restructuring, reduction, or cancellation of any aid, be it from America or any other state. In fact, a large portion of the aid is wasted on studies. Moreover, donor states offer us commodities at exaggerated prices. Aid is unhealthy from the political, economic, and social viewpoint. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Explains Military Policy to Assembly

NC1501193095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, has stressed that the Armed Forces have always been firmly and resolutely committed to performing their national duty and assuming their responsibilities during peace and war, offering every dear sacrifice to maintain "the security and safety of Egypt, its people, and its constitutional institutions."

Tantawi was delivering a statement to the Defense and National Security Committee at the People's Assembly this evening under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, the People's Assembly speaker.

In his statement, Field Marshal Tantawi discussed the pillars of Egypt's military policy. He said the Armed Forces believe that peace is a noble objective and a pressing need we seek to achieve. But we also believe, he added, that peace is achieved for the country that concludes it while enjoying a reasonable and calculated force to protect and support this peace, and that the weak countries that do not possess the factors of self-defense are liable to aggression and are a target of others' ambitions. This has clearly been proven by modern history, he said.

Tantawi said if a certain state in the region, to the exclusion of others, enjoys military power, it will be tempted, in the absence of a power balance, to perpetrate aggression and try to realize its objectives and ambitions at the expense of its neighbors.

He added: It is necessary for us to create and achieve military balance as much as we can; this is the best guarantee for achieving permanent and comprehensive peace with all the states of this important region in which we live. Here, I do not refer to a specific country, but the world changes, interests clash, and no one knows what the future holds.

He stressed that the Egyptian national security, for the achievement of which the Armed Forces play the primary role, seeks to create the appropriate climate for the society to move toward construction and development, to continue its dignified life safely and securely, and to march firmly toward prosperity and well-being for a people that has long suffered to preserve its values, principles, and the bright civilized face of its homeland.

Field Marshal Tantawi stressed that the Armed Forces, out of their belief in their duty and responsibility, are working to support and develop their military capability and keep up with the most modern international weapons systems. They also support and encourage scientific research and work for the continued development of their war armaments base depending on the state's own capabilities and resources with the support of friends. We indeed believe that the more progress made in the economic situation and the more the Egyptian society develops, the more the Armed Forces will be able to develop themselves and boost their defense capabilities.

The defense minister pointed out that the Armed Forces are a dear part, and enjoy the trust of the Egyptian people. They give back to the people as much as they can, out of their belief that the people are the source of all these capabilities and the source from which the Armed Forces derive their ability for sacrifice.

He said the Armed Forces seek as much as possible to secure a reasonable amount of their own livelihood needs so as to reduce their dependence on the people's supplies. Indeed, he added, the Armed Forces have enough projects that help meet the needs of many sectors of the state.

Field Marshal Tantawi said that out of our belief that the Egyptian national security is an integral part of the pan-Arab security and the African security, we extend bridges of cooperation to our brothers in the Arab world and the African continent, indeed a helping hand if necessary. A threat to any Arab or African country, he said, is a threat to our national security, whether directly or indirectly, and the second Gulf war is a vivid example.

The defense minister thanked the friendly states that help us and with which we cooperate, notably the United States. He said: Let it be known that this help and this cooperation proceed from the interests of all the parties, not only Egypt, in a world governed by interests, and where interests determine the pattern of relations among the parties.

In his statement, the defense minister reviewed local, regional, and international changes and their reflections on the Egyptian national security. He said these changes expanded the circles of our national security and increased the tracks of Egypt's movement in all directions and at all levels. He noted the emergence of new political and economic blocs and the emergence of economic competition. He saw the serious impact of this in view of the expected decline of markets and the difficult competition.

Field Marshal Tantawi pointed out that within the context of the challenges facing Egypt's national security and in light of its concept of the regional, international, and domestic situation, every country assesses, from its own perspective of security, the nature and magnitude of the challenges, dangers, and threats that may infringe upon it and threaten its national interests. He said that no country is far from threats in a world in which interests are the dominating factor and the definite pattern of international relations.

Tantawi noted the widening gap in technology between the advanced nations and the developing countries, which means lesser reliance on raw materials from the developing world. He said that coping with the scientific revolution, which is a landmark of this age, has made it imperative to promote the individual's abilities. He stressed that the Armed Forces must cooperate with the Interior Ministry and all the competent organs to achieve security for the citizens as part of their responsibility for preserving the constitutional legitimacy and safeguarding the state's higher interests.

Tantawi noted the transformation in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the ongoing implementation of the peaceful settlement on certain tracks and relaxation on the other tracks. He said that this is a good start for laying the foundations of a comprehensive peace in the region. He expects that this will take some time to achieve.

Tantawi noted the continuing divisions in the Arab world. He said that the efforts to bring about a reconciliation continue to clash with the results generated by the second Gulf war, noting the negative effects of that war on the requirements of the next stage as a result of the presence of regional powers surrounding the Arab society which seek to achieve their designs by exploiting these divisions.

Tantawi emphasized Egypt's growing capabilities and political influence in the region, stressing its credibility in dealing with all parties. He noted Egypt's growing role on the international level through participation in the UN peace-keeping missions and its pursuit of moderate policies on all levels.

Tantawi said that Israel's insistence on possession of a nuclear deterrent force on the pretext of guaranteeing its security despite our commitment to peace constitutes an unacceptable strategic imbalance, which cannot be ignored and must be taken into consideration. He said that military imbalance often leads to miscalculated policies. He stressed the importance of making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction so that the peace process may continue and stability be achieved in the region.

Tantawi pointed out that Iran currently pursues a flexible policy toward certain international and regional powers. However, Iran's monitored steps in building and developing its Armed Forces continue to cast doubt on its future intentions. Also, it has no right to occupy Arab territory or to continue its efforts to export its ideas to other countries.

Tantawi said that despite its tangible efforts in the past months to emphasize its views and its relative success, Libya continues to suffer from the mounting crisis with the West, noting that it is possible that this crisis may continue for some time. He emphasized Egypt's realization of the nature of the challenges in the strategic south, noting that Egypt exerts all possible efforts toward the Sudanese people to preserve the eternal ties between the two fraternal peoples and the strong bond between the Armed Forces of both countries so that the Egyptian-Sudanese relations may continue on their historical and natural course. He said that Egypt continues its policy toward Sudan despite the domestic instability in that country and the pursuit of policies that run counter to the international community's trends, and good neighborliness. He noted that the Horn of Africa has special importance and that the ongoing developments there affect our national security in one way or another.

Tantawi reviewed the general framework of Egypt's military policy which is drawn up in meticulous and integrated coordination with the policies of the other government departments and within the framework of the state's general policy to achieve national objectives. He defined the political and military goal of the Armed Forces in the next stage as safeguarding Egypt's national security; protecting the international borders, territorial waters, and air space; supporting constitutional and international legitimacy; backing friendly countries and maintaining the Armed Forces at their optimum size. He stressed commitment to a policy of rational spending as a national goal that we seek to achieve in order to reduce spending and emphasize the Armed Forces' role in boosting the development to bolster national economy through a strong, modern, and advanced Armed Forces capable of protecting the state and its national interests domestically and internationally and repulsing any direct or indirect threats.

Tantawi praised the positive and effective role of the police in safeguarding the security and social peace. He stressed that the Armed Forces are prepared to assist the state organs in safeguarding the domestic front and confronting disasters. He noted that the Armed Forces offer assistance to fraternal countries within the framework of international treaties and charters without affecting their capabilities or the defense budget.

Field Marshal Tantawi gave a detailed account of the defense allocations in the state budget, how they were spent, and where they came from. He explained that maintaining a military power capable of cost-efficient deterrence to protect the state's national security is the difficult equation the ministry seeks to solve through a diligent study of the political, economic, and social conditions in the country.

Tantawi reviewed the general policy on armament and development policy, emphasizing the need for the constant development of the war production foundation and the utilization of advanced technologies to develop self-reliance and support scientific research in the various fields to benefit efforts to update weapons and enhance their efficiency.

The defense minister affirmed that the Armed Forces give priority to the moral preparation of troops and to raising morale by consolidating national ties, strengthening the sense of belonging to Egypt, taking care of the individual fighter's humanitarian needs, and trying to curb the burden individuals have to shoulder in the various fields.

Tantawi enumerated the Armed Forces' major accomplishments in the field of arms procurement and obtaining sophisticated technologies in 1993-94. He also pointed to the scopes of military cooperation with Arab and friendly states to serve pan-Arab security, focusing on joint training and the exchange of expertise. He then reviewed the major achievements in upgrading and improving performance, elaborating on expansion in automation in the various branches of the Armed Forces. He also noted that work has been completed in building a strategic communications network that covers all strategic aspects. He referred in this context to the inauguration of the Armed Forces Crisis Management Center which applies the most sophisticated scientific and technical methods to guarantee the most effective support to decisionmakers through presenting the most suitable alternatives available.

He affirmed that the Armed Forces pay considerable attention to the development and improvement of performance to protect the domestic front, starting with the protection of international borders in coordination between the competent state establishments and similar Armed Forces departments.

The defense minister touched on the role the Armed Forces play in the economic and social reform plan, noting their participation in building new villages in Upper Egypt and building schools, in addition to the services they render to the civil sector in the field of medical insurance, fire fighting, relief and rescue operations, administrative support, road and railway building, telephone line extension, road maintenance, and bridge construction.

He said that the Armed Forces have contributed 100 million pounds to the development of Upper Egypt governorates and to curbing unemployment rates.

Interior Minister Interviewed at Book Fair

Comments on Drugs, 'Terrorism'

NC1501222295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stressed that the police department in Egypt along with the people's cooperation have achieved successive successes in combating terrorism and drugs, which endanger society. In a statement before the intellectual dialogue symposium held at the Cairo International Book Fair today, he said that regarding drugs the counternarcotics department, in cooperation with Defense Ministry units, succeeded in destroying vast areas of narcotic plants, such as poppy and hemp plants, in Sinai and south Egypt. He noted that Egypt is facing a fierce onslaught by drug traffickers but the vigilance and constant efforts of the counternarcotics men have maintained confrontation with them.

Al-Alfi declared that five terrorists surrendered to the security authorities in al-Minya Governorate yesterday as a result of tightening the grip around the terrorists in Upper Egypt. He said that they gave up on their own volition and without hesitation. He stressed the importance of popular participation in every village, town, and governorate in confronting terrorists, noting that in most operations to hunt down terrorists in the past months, citizens have played the main role.

Responding to a question on the role played by the Interior Ministry abroad in destroying fugitive terrorists, al-Alfi said that certain elements abroad insist on striking at Egypt from within and that all these incidents target not only Egypt but all the Arab and Islamic countries. He noted that there are groups abroad who finance and train terrorists to strike at Egypt.

Al-Alfi said that the Arab interior ministers' conference that convened in Tunis recently provided a good opportunity to submit the Egyptian working paper, noting that all Arab countries agreed on this paper on combating terrorism, although this item was not placed on the agenda. He noted that the conference produced good results and that agreement was reached on a number of security issues that will ensure that the Arab countries will help one another in combating crime, drugs, and other security issues.

Replying to a question on curtailing terrorist operations and the role played by the Interior Ministry in confronting terrorism, al- Alfi stressed that the information department in the ministry played a splendid role in exposing the falsehood of these extremists and their subversive ideas and that it has become clear to the Egyptian people that they are liars and that they have nothing to do with Islam. He said that the next century [as published] will testify to the role played by the security forces and the efforts they made to combat crime not only in Egypt but in the world as a result of international security cooperation in various fields.

Regarding the issue of jailed journalist 'Adil Husayn and the reports that his case is one of settling scores, al-Alfi denied these accusations. He said that the issue is before the judiciary and that Husayn is remanded in custody and not arrested. He noted that remand in custody takes place on instructions from the Prosecution Office but arrest is a decision made by the Interior Ministry under certain circumstances. He pointed out that the Prosecution Office summoned 'Adil Husayn and that he went to the Prosecution Office on his own, unaccompanied by a policeman. After the Prosecution Office checked and investigated charges and scrutinized the seized documents, he was remanded after the issue was referred to the public prosecutor, who renewed the remand. He stressed that the police did not exceed the proper bounds with Husayn and that he is allowed to receive what he needs from his family and that his health is good. He added that the medical committee that checked him decided not to put him in hospital because his health is good. He noted that he personally contacted the head of the prison department to enquire about reports that he was being mistreated. He stressed that he expressed readiness to go to inspect the place where he is kept and to enquire about his health, but the prison chief assured him that he is treated well.

Responding to a question on the number of political detainees in Egypt, al-Alfi said that this question has no clear answer because some of the detainees are referred to trial and released, whereas interrogation with others continues. He noted that most detainees are those who pose a danger to security and that their arrest is a result of certain crimes.

Responding to a question on the involvement of certain Muslim Brotherhood members in terrorist operations, al-Alfi said that the interrogation showed that certain Muslim Brotherhood members were connected with certain terrorists and supported them in different ways.

Al-Alfi said that a plan has been devised to introduce helicopters into service to monitor mountainous areas and hunt down fugitive terrorists in the sugar-cane plantations and in difficult terrain to uncover the terrorist hideouts. He said that the use of helicopters will assist the security men in various areas, noting that the security department will be modern and equipped with advanced technological facilities in line with the development in police departments in most countries of the world.

Defends Emergency Laws

NC1501222895 Paris AFP in English 2222 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 15 (AFP)—Around 3,000 people are being held in Egyptian prisons without trial under the country's emergency law, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said Sunday [15 January].

"These prisoners who represent a threat to state security are either (Islamic) terrorist elements or drug traffickers. They number no more than three thousand," al-Alfi told a conference on the sidelines of the Cairo International Book Fair.

Emergency laws have been in force in Egypt since the 1981 assassination of president Anwar al-Sadat.

Al-Alfi said "it turns out that terrorist elements, once freed, commit further attacks."

The figures he gave do not include hundreds of Islamic fundamentalists held in prison after being tried and sentenced.

Egyptian jails hold 15-20,000 prisoners belonging to outlawed groups, according to unofficial estimates which are denied by the authorities.

Sixty percent of political prisoners are members of the banned al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah militant group, 25 percent are from the smaller Islamic Jihad and 15 percent from other groups including the Moslem Brotherhood, according to the unofficial figures.

Moslem militants launched a campaign of violence in March 1992 to topple Egypt's secular government which has left almost 600 people dead. Al-Alfi himself was injured in a militant attack in 1993.

The interior minister also said Egyptian security forces would soon use helicopters to trace militants and drug traffickers hiding in sugar-cane fields in southern Egypt.

Sugar cane grows to around two metres (yards) for six months of the year and fields of the crop are often used by militants as a hiding place and a base for attacks.

Muslim Brotherhood Activity Discussed

NC1801100595 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 12 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Umaymah 'Abd-al-Latif]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, which boycotted the 1990 parliamentary elections along with the majority of the opposition parties, has decided to contest this year's elections, which are now expected in November, said the organisation's spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi. Although it no longer needs to align itself with a political party, as was the case in 1984 and 1987 when the slate system was used, al-Hudaybi said that "new alliances are about to emerge." The individual candidacy system will be used in this year's elections.

In 1984, Brotherhood candidates contested the elections on the slates of the Wafd Party, and, in 1987, it forged a "tripartite alliance" with Ibrahim Shukri's Labor Party and Mustafa Kamil Murad's Liberal Party. The Liberals walked out of the alliance some time ago, but the close cooperation between the Brotherhood and Labor is very much alive.

Dr. Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, a Brotherhood figure who heads the Asyut University Lecturer's Association, also confirmed the organisation's decision to participate in the forthcoming elections. "We are in a good position," he said. "If we are guaranteed a fair election under the full supervision of the judiciary, I think that we will definitely make it to parliament."

In announcing the Brotherhood's decision, both al-Hudaybi and Habib rejected accusations made by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi that the organisation was using the "cloak of religion to pounce" on political power in a number of Arab and Islamic countries. In a speech last week at a conference of Arab interior ministers in Tunis, al-Alfi charged that the Brotherhood "backed terrorist movements everywhere because they serve their objectives and aspirations and divert the attention of governments from its well- organised activity...Egypt senses that numerous Arab countries are in great danger because of this destructive, terrorist threat," he said. This was the first time that the interior minister had lashed out at the Brotherhood at a regional conference.

Former interior minister Hasan Abu-Basha fully agreed with al- Alfi's assessment. "His remarks show that the government is not deceived by their reformed slogans. We have known from the very beginning that their ultimate goal is the takeover of power. Their infiltration of political parties and syndicates is but a short-term tactic as they await the first opportunity to declare themselves a political party," Abu-Basha said.

The Brotherhood, which was founded in 1922 by Imam Hasan al- Banna, has claimed for years that it has renounced violence. Although the group was declared illegal in 1954, the government has looked the other way as it expanded its political, economic, and social activities during the past decade.

But the tide turned in February 1992 when police raided the Salsabil computer firm and arrested three of its owners and managers. At the time, computer disks were said to have been seized from the firm listing the Brotherhood's activities and the names of its members in a large number of Arab and Islamic countries and also in non-Islamic states.

Al-Hudaybi described al-Alfi's accusation as groundless. "Seizing power is the last thing we could think of, but the government apparently believes that whosoever opposes it, has designs to grab power....How can we reach power? It will have to be either through honest elections, or if we have a military force which surpasses that of the government. The two possibilities are very unlikely." Al-Hudayib defined the Brotherhood's objectives in a delicately balanced phrase: "We want to be ruled by Islam, not that we, the Muslim Brotherhood, rule by Islam."

Al-Hudaybi confirmed, however, that the Brotherhood is active in other Arab countries. In Yemen, he said, the Brotherhood is the backbone of the Islah (Reform) Party, and, in Jordan, it contested the second parliamentary elections and its members served on a now- defunct cabinet.

Habib, for his party, said al-Alfi sought to tarnish the Brotherhood's image because municipal elections are approaching. "Every time there is a national issue that requires the participation of all political factions, the security authorities come up with such accusations as supporting terrorism and seeking to seize power in order to tarnish our reputation and make us lose support," Habib said. "They did it before the National Dialogue Conference (last summer) and they are doing it now before the elections."

A retired police general, Fu'ad 'Allam, who once headed the Interior Ministry's state security department, told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY that any popularity the Brotherhood has stems from the fact that "they are a well-organised group whose members abide blindly by rules. At a time when internal divisions undermine the unity of other parties, whose members show little dedication, the Brotherhood is the most committed political group," 'Allam said. "Through the articles and statements they publish, they try to convince the public that they are a peace-loving group that has discarded violence."

'Allam believes that the links between the Brotherhood and the terrorist groups became known to the government only recently "because most of their contact happens abroad." The Salsabil case exposed those links and "I don't understand why the government has not published the documents that were seized from the computer firm," he said.

Judge Sa'id al-'Ashmawi, former chief justice of the Cairo Criminal Court, concurred with what 'Allam had to say. 'Ashmawi, who has lived for years under a death threat from militant Islamic groups, said the government at first drew a distinction between those groups and the Brotherhood. "But the link between them was exposed in the Salsabil case, and, consequently, the government altered its attitude completely, and, on the basis of the body of evidence it has, began leveling accusations against the Brotherhood," 'Ashmawi said.

'Ashmawi said the Brotherhood "was, and still is, a terrorist group that seeks to overthrow the government. However, they divide the work between them and the rest of the (militant) groups, particularly since most of the Brotherhood's leaders are too old to go through the ordeal of trial and imprisonment. Although they support terrorism and their actions result in terrorism, their role is confined to providing these groups with money, ideas, and fatwas (religious rulings), leaving the dirty work for them to do," 'Ashmawi said.

He said he found it incomprehensible that the government allowed them to continue functioning and practicing their political, economic, and social activities, "watching them with folded arms as they infiltrate syndicates and political institutions."

An opinion poll conducted by AL-AHRAM WEEKLY last December (see issue 29 December 1994-4 January 1995) in which 1,505 men and women were asked about their political preferences, the Islamist tendency as a whole was chosen by 5.9 percent, compared to 21.3 percent who choosing the ruling NDP. The majority of those polled could not name any political party or current as representing them, 40 percent saying that none represented them and 22 percent expressing no opinion.

Economic News: Debt, Oil, Iranian Trade

Foreign Debt Under Control

NC1601091395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, has announced that Egypt currently has no problems with foreign debts, now that its external debt has been decreased. He noted that on 31 December 1994 our foreign debt was $31.4 billion, and that the services on this debt amount to 13.2 percent of the total current foreign currency deposits in Egypt.

He told a session of the Economic Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, meeting last night under the chairmanship of Dr. Mustafa al-Sa'id, that the safe ceiling for debt servicing is around 18 to 20 percent of the total foreign currency reserves. This means that Egypt has the potential to take out additional loans. However, Egypt is seeking new channels of funding that do not generate new debts.

He clarified Egypt's policy of developing economic relations between Egypt and other countries worldwide in order to guarantee international donations for the development process in Egypt at the least possible cost so that Egypt's economy can cope with these costs.

He said that Egypt will start negotiations with the European Union [EU] this year to change its relationship with the EU from a recipient of aid and support to one of partnership and growth.

Oil, Gas Production in 1994

NC1701100695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has stated that in 1994 Egypt concluded six new agreements with international companies for oil and natural gas prospecting in the Western Desert, the Gulf of Suez, the Delta, and the Mediterranean.

In an interview with Cairo Middle East Radio, broadcasting from Cairo, al-Banbi said this is the first time an

Egyptian company has entered the field of oil and natural gas prospecting, indicating that the petroleum authority will help the Egyptian company in this regard.

Al-Banbi said there were 13 petroleum finds in 1994, including eight oil finds and five natural gas finds. He explained that the most important oil finds were in the north of the Gulf of Suez with a production capacity of 5,600 barrels per day [bpd] and in the Ra's al-Bihar area in the Eastern Desert with a production capacity of 3,200 bpd. He said the most important gas finds were in the al-Timsah area in the Mediterranean with a production capability of 67 million cubic feet daily, in Wiqar area, production capability of 56 million cubic feet daily, and in al-Abyad, west of Matruh, 24 million cubic feet daily.

Al-Banbi estimated Egypt's oil production in 1994 at 56.2 million tons and its natural gas production at 11.4 million tons. He explained that Egypt has entered the era of natural gas production.

On the future of natural gas in Egypt, al-Banbi said gas finds are constantly increasing and so is the use of natural gas. The quantity of electricity generated from the use of natural gas rose from 20 percent in 1984 to 80 percent in 1994. This is equivalent to 48.6 billion kilowatts and means higher efficiency, less pollution, and a saving in diesel oil.

Al-Banbi said 180 buses from the petroleum sector's transport fleet run on natural gas. He added that in 1995 some public transport buses in Cairo will also run on gas—to protect the environment.

Iranian Trade To Increase

NC1501175895 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 15 (AFP)—Egypt and Iran are planning joint industrial projects as part of moves to bolster economic ties, the Egyptian industry ministry said Sunday [15 January].

Iranian industry officials who arrived in Cairo on Friday discussed joint projects with Egyptian Industry Minister Ibrahim Fawzi, a ministry spokesman told AFP.

Spokesman Muhammad al-Bahnasi said the projects—notably in iron and steel and the car industry—would be financed by the Saudi-based Islamic Development Bank.

The Iranian officials also asked to take part in the Cairo International Fair in March, al-Bahnasi said.

The Egyptian sugar company recently signed a contract to provide industrial equipment for five sugar refineries in Iran, al-Bahnasi added.

Egypt agreed in November to repay 149 billion dollars of debt to Iran dating from the rule of the shah in the form of industrial equipment.

Egypt and Iran broke off diplomatic ties after Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979.

Cairo has accused Iranian leaders of backing Egyptian Moslem militants who are waging a violent campaign to topple the government.

However, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki said his country wanted to establish new ties with Egypt during a visit to Cairo last October.

Gaza Envoy on Egyptian Support for 'Arafat

NC1301180095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Mahmud Karim, head of the Egyptian representation office in Gaza, has stated that the office in the Gaza Strip and its branch in Jericho will work on bolstering bilateral relations between Egypt and the Palestinian Authority [PA] in economic, cultural, and other technical fields, and will implement the economic agreement signed between Egypt and the PA. He said that the Egyptian representation office will facilitate the economic and trade exchange between the two sides. He affirmed that opening the Egyptian office in Gaza is proof of Egypt's support for the PA under the leadership of President Yasir 'Arafat.

Politicians, Figures Form Anti-Israel Popular Movement

NC1301062695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic on 9 January publishes on page 8 an approximately 700-word boxed "call" signed by some 200 politicians, trade unionists, artists, university professors, and other public figures urging the establishment of a popular movement to resist Zionism and boycott Israel. Seeing a "looming danger threatening the future of the Arab nation" as a result of the "Zionist-imperialist hegemony plan", the signatories call on all forces of the nation, "independents, Islamists, nationalists, socialists, and liberals", to unify their efforts to defend the nation and its interests, and to "tighten the popular siege on the Zionist entity by all means, including a complete mass boycott of Zionist commodities, individuals, projects, and ideas."

The signatories then announce the formation of "an open constituent committee to prepare for the convening of a permanent conference that will discuss and approve a detailed program of action to confront all forms of Zionist domination, especially the Middle East market plan and the normalization process, and create the tools and methods to accomplish this epochal task."

Signatories include Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, Nasirite Arab Democratic Party Leader Dia'-al-Din Dawud, National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party leader Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, and Arab Artists Union President Sa'd-al-Din Wahbah.

Al-Shar', Musa Expect Saudi-Yemeni Contacts 'Within Days'

MM1801093095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Naji al-Harazi: "Al-Shar' and Musa Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Direct Contacts Between Saudi Arabia and Yemen Within Days"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ifrane, Sanaa, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egyptian Foreign Minisher 'Amr Musa have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that direct contacts will be made between Saudi Arabia and Yemen within the coming few days to end the border tension.

Al-Shar' said: The talks between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam focused on containing the problem and resuming dialogue between the two countries.

As for 'Amr Musa, he told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the problem has subsided. He pointed out that bilateral negotiations will be conducted directly. He said that it was agreed during Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to make direct contacts between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and to suspend any actions liable to escalate the situation between the two fraternal countries.

Musa cited the contacts President Husni Mubarak made with the custodian of the two holy mosques and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Amr Musa confirmed that President Salih expressed willingness to respond to and understand the view expressed by the custodian of the two holy mosques regarding the existing problem on the border.

Al-Shar' and Musa were speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the sidelines of the Jerusalem Committee meetings in Ifrane.

In Sanaa, Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his visit to Saudi Arabia still stands, and that he is waiting until President Salih returns from his European tour and until Foreign Minister Dr. al-Iryani returns from his visit to the United States.

Al-Ahmar denied reports of continued tension on the border between the two countries despite the agreement announced recently. He stressed that the two sides are serious and interested in restoring relations between the two countries to their normal status and in solving outstanding problems. He said that the recent agreement is "a serious agreement, not for fun. And the Yemeni and Saudi leaderships are committed to it." [passage omitted]

Salih Hails Efforts To Contain Border Incident

MM1701165295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Paris "yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the efforts which the Yemeni leadership, Syria, and the Republic of Egypt have made so far have been fruitful with regard to eliminating the tension that has occurred over recent days. "We consider this positive, and, God willing, efforts will continue to be made by the Yemeni leadership and the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to eliminate what has clung to the two sides' minds over the past days. We reemphasize to the world through AL-HAYAH that Yemen is fully willing to settle the border problem with neighbor Saudi Arabia in a manner that guarantees the two sides' rights."

AL-HAYAH met with the Yemeni president on the sidelines of his visit to Paris. The following interview was conducted:

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What do you mean, that the efforts are fruitful, and what are actually the recent developments?

[Salih] The fruitful efforts are represented in the containment of the incident, which could have ramified and developed into something not positive for Yemeni-Saudi relations. We also consider them positive efforts with regard to my possible [mutamalah] visit to Saudi Arabia, as this comes in a calm atmosphere and a good climate and prior preparation. We have told our neighbors in the Kingdom that we are willing to send a high-level delegation to prepare for a summit meeting to normalize relations and settle the border problem, which is an old one. We also informed our Saudi brothers earlier, especially when the incidents took place, of our wish to settle matters. Our delegation was about to leave [for Riyadh] last Wednesday [11 January]. But the brothers wanted the delegation to travel on Saturday, and the visit was postponed at the brothers' request. Our delegation is ready in Sanaa. When the brothers in Saudi Arabia agree to receive it, it is ready to go to the Kingdom to discuss the matter.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] You expressed Yemen's intention to improve its relations with Saudi Arabia. What is the future of these relations?

[Salih] First normalization then turning the page of the past, because the Gulf war and the problems that followed it during the war with the treacherous secessionists have had their adverse effects. We spoke with His Majesty King Fahd and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah about opening a new page in Yemeni-Saudi relations and closing the file with all its negative and positive aspects. We have hastened to do so.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What about your visit to France?

[Salih] It falls within the framework of communication between us and France. It is a reciprocal visit, as President Mitterrand visited Yemen in 1993, and there is real cooperation between us in several spheres. We hope that this visit will lead to broader cooperation in the various spheres. There is cooperation between us in the spheres of oil, gas, and prospecting for minerals, in addition to the trade cooperation between us and France.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] You received this morning (yesterday) the chairman of the oil company Elf Aquitaine, which had a license in Yemen but suspended its operations. Did you discuss with him the resumption of its operations in the area?

[Salih] I discussed with the Elf chairman the issue of continuing the company's activities under the license which granted it in the past a concession to search and prospect in the border area. As for Total's activities, they are continuing. There are Elf activities, but they are not as serious and enthusiastic as Total's.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What about the domestic situation?

[Salih] It is going through economic difficulties as a result of the conspiracy hatched against Yemeni unity. This is attributable to the totalitarian regime that existed in the south before unity and the effects of partition, colonialism, and imamship. The government has very big tasks ahead of it, and we have a program for economic, social, and cultural reform which I have submitted to the people's representatives.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What about your visit to the Netherlands?

[Salih] There is old cooperation between us and the Netherlands, and we will discuss ways of further developing Yemeni-Netherlands cooperation.

Bahrain

Minister on 'Incidents,' Alexandria Summit

NC1801102095 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, in Manama, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We are getting reports of rioting in Bahrain. How true are these reports?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] I thank you for your interest. I believe we need the objective Egyptian media to ask this question. Some limited incidents in Bahrain have been exaggerated by being disseminated through particular media. I believe the situation in Bahrain should be made known. The situation in Bahrain is secure and stable. The incidents have ended, praise be to God. Life in Bahrain went on as normal and there was no halt in activities, not even for a few hours, throughout what have been labeled the incidents.

The objective media, particularly the Egyptian media, which we appreciate and respect a great deal, should be careful about what they report, citing particular news agencies, and should get information from the real sources. The people of Bahrain feel safe and secure. I believe the issue of the incidents could be called a passing summer cloud. It has already gone away, thank God.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, it is clear that such riots are moving around the region or have become a contagion in the whole region. How should this be confronted?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Of course this is also an important question, because during the meeting of the Arab Media Standing Committee a few days ago the brothers in the information ministries of the Arab countries discussed it. In particular they discussed the exaggeration of events in the Arab world. This exaggeration might be due to known reasons and objectives. But we need to be cautious about what is said. There is a phenomenon called extremism, which the brothers discussed in their meeting. They agreed that the Arab media should be cautious about the spread of such a phenomenon. The Arab media should highlight that this phenomenon does not really exist in the real sense of the word except in the minds of some evil people. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, undoubtedly, peace and stability in the Arab region require unity of position and the clearing of the Arab atmosphere—something that has started—not only on the level of confronting terrorism and extremism, but also on the level of meeting the challenges before the Arab world. How do you, in Bahrain, view the steps that started with the Alexandria Summit?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] As you said, there are big challenges that must be met. One way to meet these challenges is to solve all the pending problems among the brothers in the Arab world if they can. If we cannot do that, then, through our region, our traditions, and Arab brotherhood, we, the Arabs, can find many solutions without giving the outside world the chance to interfere in our area. The Alexandria Summit was a real starting point for establishing many things. We could say it is the beginning of a new world of understanding in the Arab world, among the countries in the Arab world. It could also reflect the appreciation some countries have, particularly the Gulf states, for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria.

We believe that if we can overcome some of the problems before the Arab world we could solve our basic problems. Egypt and Syria have noble Arab positions.

Regarding real peace in the Arab world and the Middle East, Egypt has had numerous positions. We must all stand alongside Syria in one rank to emerge with results in favor of the Arab citizen. Syria cannot be left alone in the trench. We must stand alongside it these days and our stance must support the Syrian stance, which only demands that the land-for-peace formula be applied. We believe that Syrian and Lebanese territory must return to their rightful owners so that a real peace is established.

As for our stance, we believe that real peace in the Middle East will yield much stability for all the Arab people. I believe that such a peace will be useful to all the Arab countries, whether in the Gulf, North Africa, or elsewhere.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Regarding everything you have clarified, could we expect an Arab summit soon and a real start to clearing the Arab atmosphere and to Arab reconciliation?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] There is no doubt that the important point is to strengthen the current Arab situation to serve the Arab nation through the Arab League. The Arab League should be strengthened and supported. The League has expressed positions that could be useful to us. The secretary general is exerting huge efforts in which he should be helped. If there is any proposal to convene a summit the agenda for such a summit could be studied through the Arab League Council. I am confident that such a summit would be supported by most countries. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Official Welcomes Saudi, Yemeni Accord

LD1601195595 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, Cabinet affairs minister and minister of planning, has stated that the State of Kuwait expresses its satisfaction at and welcome of the recent agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen aiming at containing the consequences of the border incidents which have recently taken place.

The Cabinet affairs minister and minister of planning hailed the spirit of wisdom and responsibility with which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has dealt with those incidents which reflect its awareness of the great challenges and dangers through which the area is passing.

He expressed his hope that the fraternal negotiations and dialogue will arrive at positive solutions that will settle the dispute and achieve more peace and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Says Budget To Be Reduced

LD1501110195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 15 Jan (KUNA)—Nasir al-Rawdan, Kuwaiti second deputy prime minister and finance minister said in an interview published here today that the state's general budget for the 1995/1996 financial year would see a reduction compared with the current state budget. Al-Rawdan told Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN that the deficit in the 1995/1996 state's general budget will be 500 million dinar less than that of the 1994/1995 budget, expecting that the deficit in the 1995/1996 budget will be 1 billion Kuwaiti dinars. He said that the Finance Ministry has worked for the reduction of expenditure as a first stage and the growth of revenues as a second stage. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Lauds UN Resolution on Iraq

LD1501180995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting this morning under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers welcomed the UN Security Council's resolution that was issued unanimously last Thursday [12 January] and which stipulated that the UN sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime must be renewed because the latter has not implemented all the UN Security Council's resolutions concerning the unjust aggression against the State of Kuwait.

The Council stressed that the UN Security Council's resolution confirmed the international community's conviction that the Iraqi regime continued, with its procrastination and attempts, to impede the implementation of the UN resolutions. The implementation of these resolutions constitutes, in addition to embodying peaceful intentions towards the State of Kuwait and the states of the region, a main pillar for peace and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

The Council also reviewed political issues and got acquainted with a number of political reports. The Council followed with interest the regrettable developments in the Republic of Chechnya and the suffering of Muslims resulting from these developments. It called on the international community to adopt effective measures so as to put an end to this tragic reality and to stop the fighting there in a way that would put an end to the bloodshed and solve the conflict with dialogue and peaceful means. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Paper Urges War Crimes Tribunal for Saddam

JN1501214995 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 13 Jan 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Removal of the Baghdad Regime is the Ideal Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past 48 hours, political and military reports revealed the conduct of the Iraqi regime and its sometimes opportunist and, in other times, selective way of dealing with UN Security Council resolutions on which the cease-fire during the Gulf War was based. These reports affirm that the international community, represented by the UN Security Council itself, should continue its political and economic pressures on the rulers of Baghdad, even if this leads to a practical initiative to form a war crimes tribunal against Saddam Husayn and his clique. The objective of this tribunal will be to make Saddam and his clique pay the price for the war crimes they committed—not only against the State of Kuwait and its national sovereignty and the destruction they caused to it as a result of their treacherous invasion—but also against the Iraqi people themselves who are now paying a dear price for the mistakes and crimes of this regime, which is ruling them through oppression and domination.

From here and regardless of what the UN Security Council might have decided during its periodic reviewal last night; that is, U.S. Eastern timing—at dawn today in the kingdom's timing, we call for continuing sanctions against the Iraqi regime without any kind of easement. This is so that this regime submits, in an undoubted way, to all UN resolutions, and to achieve the objectives of these resolutions. The first of these resolutions is to make sure that Iraq, under its current rule, does not pose another threat to the security, stability, and peace of the countries and peoples of the region, and that it does not threaten their gains in terms of marvelous developmental accomplishments which cost them efforts, time, and money.

Perhaps the UN Security Council will not contradict itself after it revealed just the day before yesterday that the Iraqi regime is still concealing vital information from UN weapons inspectors about its military programs. Moreover, the Iraqi regime has practically rebuilt a major part of its military arsenal and spent billions in this regard. Meanwhile, the Iraqi people are starving and suffering from diseases as the rulers of the Iraqi regime are not giving the least consideration to this human suffering.

The removal of this criminal regime is the ideal solution to resolve first, the problems facing the Iraqis; second, the problems of security, peace, and stability in the Gulf region; and third; the problems of the new world order.

Interior Minister on 'Terrorists,' 'Disturbances'

NC1801070495 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Jan 95 p 31

[Interview with Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz by Sayyid Zaki in Tunis; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Zaki] Let us discuss reports that say alms have been given to the terrorists inside and outside the Kingdom?

[Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz] I am confident that the Saudi citizen categorically rejects that his alms go to illegal places. The question is: How could this money be diverted from the right course to the wrong course? This is the responsibility of those who commit such an act. We have open channels with many Arab countries. We must cooperate in this field. If they tell us that Saudi funds, whether they are alms or other funds, have been sent to places other than legitimate destinations, we must immediately adopt the appropriate measures to deter the practice. I hope the Saudi people and government will not be blamed for that, because we reject it. But if there are facts confirming that such funds have been used to finance terrorist organizations we will firmly rectify the course.

[Zaki] The kingdom recently witnessed disturbances fomented by elements seeking to cause trouble. How did you confront them and what did the investigation reveal?

[Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz] What really happened was announced. Investigations will continue to reveal further information. We were in pain over this issue. It transpired that these elements were some of the Arab brothers who worked in the field of education and in other fields in the kingdom. Regrettably, they used mosques to deliver lectures and hold suspect seminars. These elements have been detained. There is another group that is still being interrogated. The members of this group are related to organizations outside the kingdom. These organizations are not only working against the kingdom, but also against the entire Arab nation. The activities of this group run counter to the Islamic religion and investigations are still under way. It is premature to say whether there are individuals who will be released. Regrettably, those arrested were Saudi citizens. [passage omitted]

Monies Transferred To Aid PLO 'Strugglers'

LD1601182295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1757 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 Jan—On order from His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, governor of Riyadh region and chairman of the popular committee for helping the strugglers of Palestine, the sum of 23,063,364 riyals from the revenues of the popular committee for helping the strugglers of Palestine has been transferred today to the Palestine Liberation Organization. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

'Source' Hails Proposal on Solving Border Disputes

JN1701191695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jan (WAKH)—A responsible source in the fraternal United Arab Emirates

[UAE] has stated that the proposal made by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, on bilaterally resolving the border disputes among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states received unanimous support from his brothers their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders at their recent summit held in Bahrain.

In a statement to the Lebanese newspaper (?AL-ANWAR), commenting on the Manama summit decision which called for bilaterally resolving the border disputes between the GCC states during 1995, the source said the UAE, according to what Shaykh Zayid announced a few years ago, specifically at the ninth summit also held in Bahrain, had already called for resolving these disputes.

The source pointed out that his highness the UAE president said at that time that the GCC states, leaders, and peoples are more aware than any other party of the region's traditions and history. They also know their internal problems and the way to resolve them better than any foreign party.

The source added: At that time, His Highness Shaykh Zayid also said that the leaders of these states are brothers who know how to grant everyone his due rights. They also know better than others how to find bilateral fraternal solutions without seeking help from the international fora, and they can set up committees comprising experienced, specialized, knowledgeable, and competent persons [word indistinct] to help states find appropriate and satisfactory solutions.

The source explained that the consensus and support for the UAE president's proposal at the Manama summit only shows the (?commitment) by both the UAE and the leader of its march to the Gulf's interests and the general Arab interest in order to bring about welfare for the Gulf region and the entire Arab nation, achieve prosperity for the Arab peoples, and ensure their stability, security, and progress.

Yemen

Reports of Attempts To Assassinate Salih Denied

MM2810163594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Oct 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Hammud Munsir in London, 'Abd-al-Qasim al-Shami in Aden, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Sanaa: "Denial of Reports of Two Attempts To Assassinate Yemeni President in South"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, head of the Public Affairs Department of the General Committee (Political Bureau) of the General People's Congress [GPC], has denied reports about the discovery of two attempts to assassinate Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Hadramaut and then Aden, where he arrived the day before yesterday in the evening in the course of a tour of the southern and eastern governorates, on a day of student demonstrations in Aden in protest against the unification of the teaching system.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-'Ansi said that the Yemeni president arrived in Aden the day before yesterday and would stay there for one or two weeks. Asked if the president's presence in Aden was an indication of a tendency to make Aden the winter capital, he said: "There is a need to equip the buildings of the ministries to prepare for the government's move there in the winter, but the presidential palace is equipped for the president to reside there at any time." [passage omitted]

Some sources speculate that the reports about the two assassination attempts were perhaps leaked by some Yemeni security organs to gain the sympathy of the people of the southern and eastern governorates for the president and also to justify the current arrest campaign in these governorates of people accused of being secessionist. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Leaves for United States

JN1701151295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for the United States today.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', he said he will hold talks with U.S. State Department officials on regional developments and explain Yemen's position on these developments. He added that he will also take part in a seminar held by Georgia State University about Islam and the West and in another seminar held by the Foreign Affairs Council in New York City about the negotiations on unity and the war of secession.

'Aziz, Syria's Khaddam Reportedly Discuss Rapprochement

JN1601152195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 16 Jan 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian source close to Damascus has said a secret meeting was held recently in Paris between Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Deputy Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, under French auspices. The source said the idea of the meeting was French and that the meeting was prepared for in coordination with Iraq and Syria with the aim of normalizing relations between them.

The source said the meeting dealt with ways to establish normal relations between the two countries and ways to overcome political differences that hindered, in past years, the establishment of normal relations, whether for political or ideological reasons, that have actually been superseded by developments in the Middle East following the peace process.

The source said 'Aziz and Khaddam agreed in principle to open the international borders between the two countries, which were closed in 1982 due to political differences, within a month. The source confirmed this Syrian move toward Iraq is, in practice, taking place with the knowledge of Saudi Arabia and Cairo and in implementation of agreements reached at the Alexandria summit, which brought together Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The source said that during that summit an agreement was reached on the need to terminate the political and economic seclusion of Iraq in a manner that serves the positions of the three states on the peace process.

The source said: During the Alexandria summit, King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz said his country does not reject a Syrian-Egyptian openness toward Iraq provided that Riyadh will not be asked to take a similar step, due to some considerations related to Gulf-U.S relations and because Gulf states cannot afford to strain relations with Washington at the current time.

The source expected that, in the near future, meetings at various levels will be held between Syrian and Iraqi officials in Cairo and Damascus with the aim of consecrating the Syrian-Egyptian openness toward Baghdad.

The Palestinian official said he believes the Syrian leadership has grown fully convinced that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is not ready to offer any concessions on withdrawal from the Golan and that the next stage in the tenure of the Israeli Government will be used as a way to strengthen its position in its confrontation with the Israeli right wing in order to win the next political elections in June 1996. The Palestinian official said this requires the Syrian leadership to "brake" the Arab thrust toward normalization with Israel in order to weaken Rabin's political calculations in his electoral battle against the Likud. The source said that this makes it necessary to make parallel Arab calculations, foremost of which is terminating Iraq's seclusion and involving it in the regional game with the aim of benefiting from its rejection of the peace process with Israel.

Hammadi Denies Khaddam-'Aziz Meeting

NC1801134795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (MENA)—The Iraqi culture and information minister, Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, has denied a foreign news agency report about a meeting held recently in Paris between Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

In an exclusive statement to MENA's correspondent in Baghdad today, Hammadi described the report as groundless.

A foreign news agency, quoting a Jordanian magazine, reported that a secret meeting was held recently in Paris between the Iraqi and Syrian officials and that contacts were made between Damascus and Baghdad. The two agreed to reopen the borders between them, which have been closed since 1982, the report added.

Minister Hammadi Views Ties With Jordan, Gulf

JN1601165895 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jan 95 p 11

[Report by Nayif al-Ma'ani]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stressed that Iraqi-Jordanian relations are very good, fraternal, and advanced. He said these relations are not stained at all because the fraternal Jordanian people do not just understand Iraq's position, but are supporting it through all means.

In an exclusive interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B in Baghdad, the minister added: The Jordanian media are serious and committed to pan-Arab causes. They are also objective and very civilized and we highly value their position toward Iraq and its people.

Asked about cooperation between the Jordanian and Iraqi media organizations, Hammadi said: Cooperation is good and the radio and television corporations in the two fraternal countries exchange visits and programs.

Asked about Iraq's relations with the Gulf states, the Iraqi information minister said: The Gulf states are not all the same. Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates to some extent wish to see Arab reconciliation and they are ready for reconciliation and frank talk. He added: [Arab League Secretary General] 'Ismat Abd-al-Majid made a call in this regard and we approved it.

He said that Iraq has not forgotten that it was subject to the ugliest aggression in history and the unfair and unjust embargo is still imposed on its people. The Arab states, which believe in Arab brotherhood and Arab destiny, should take the initiative to lift the embargo. You see countries which have taken part in the aggression against Iraq—such as France—demanding an end to the embargo imposed in Iraq. Their position is far better than that of several Arab states. The same goes for Russia, China, Italy, Brazil, Germany and several non-aligned countries which are also demanding an end or an easing of the embargo. It is unacceptable from Arab or Islamic viewpoints to see that, while certain Arab countries are re- echoing the British and U.S. position on the issue of the embargo.

On talks and meetings of [Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz at the Security Council and the United Nations, the minister said 'Aziz meets with all ambassadors of the Security Council members states. There are only two countries that adopt a political position that is hostile to Iraq. This position is illegal and conflicts with the Security Council Resolution 687 and also conflicts with the resolution that had been worked out by the United States.

Hammadi added: We hope that the Security Council will take an advanced step toward alleviating or lifting the siege.

On the high prices and the suffering of the Iraqi people from these prices, the minister of information said the prices go up due to the unjust siege. Inflation has reached 20,000 percent since 1989. The reason for this, as Hammadi said, is the siege, and nothing else, which is imposed on all commodities that come to or from Iraq.

He said this inflation is not only in Iraq, but it is also in Turkey. Turkey has not entered the war, but the siege influenced it and the Turkish trade lost about $60 billions during that period.

The information minister said the achievement realized by Iraq was that it aborted the U.S.-British plan which hoped that the siege would cause famine among the Iraqi people, famine would cause infighting among the sons of the people, and that Iraq would change into another Rwanda.

He said the Iraqi leadership has set a priority which is to realize food security. He added: Yes, there are difficulties in obtaining some foodstuffs and the prices are high, but the main reason is the siege as it is known to all. Praise be to God, there is no famine in Iraq.

Jordan's Transport Minister Arrives on Visit

JN1801123995 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jan. 18 (INA)—Mr. Samir Qa'war, Jordanian minister of transport arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday [17 January] leading a delegation on a several-day visit to the country.

Mr. Qa'war told INA that he would hold talks to develop bilateral relations, especially in the fields of land and sea transportation, railways and aviation in addition to the participation in the general secretariat meetings of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transportation Corporation and its future plans.

The Jordanian official condemned the protracted embargo imposed on Iraqi people, expressing hope that Arab and international endeavors would be fruitful to end the four-year-old blockade.

Czech Official: Trade Interests Section To Be Opened

JN1501130395 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Head of economic committee of the Czech parliament, Vladimir Bodneski [name as received], has said a section for Czech trade interests will be opened soon in Baghdad.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, Mr. Bodneski, who is heading a parliamentary and economic delegation currently in a visit to the country, stressed that his country will never be the last to cooperate with Iraq, referring that several Czech businessmen have been given the green light to visit Iraq to enhance cooperation in economic and trade fields.

He went on to say that the UN-imposed economic sanctions on Iraq since August, 1990, have made the Czech Government to lose some hundreds of millions dollars worth deals as well as hindering trade relations with Iraq.

Furthermore, Mr. Bodneski noted that his state is looking forward to enhance and restore economic ties with Iraq, stressing that these ties, which were based on mutual understanding, will soon be back to normal.

Moreover, the Czech Government is aiming at promoting action within the joint cooperation agreement signed with Iraq in June, 1994, he said. Adding that this agreement will help open new horizons of bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

Mr. Bodneski elaborated that under the agreement, Iraq will be supplied with goods that do not violate the UN Security Council's resolutions of the embargo.

He added that his state's plan of cooperation with Iraq is based on three main steps, the first of which deals with the medical and food cooperation during the imposition of sanctions, and the second is concerned with a short-termed cooperation programme to be implemented as soon as the anti-Iraq sanctions are totally ended, while the third step of the plan will be based on a long-dated cooperation.

The Czech Government will also supply Iraq with filtration systems and electric power stations, he noted, referring that the two states have already agreed on joint work to participate in projects.

On the other hand, director-general of the Czech Investment Fund and members of the parliamentary delegation showed concern over the plight of Iraqi children due to the dearth of milk and medicine, expressing hope that their pain and suffering will be ended soon.

Early on Thursday [12 January], Iraq Minister of Finance Ahmad Husayn met with Vladimir Bodneski and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, Mr. Husayn reviewed with the Czech delegation the plight of Iraqis due to the continuation of the UN imposed sanctions which led to deprive children, women and elderly people of the basic necessities.

On his part, Mr. Bodneski expressed his people's support of Iraq's attempt to put an end to the more than four-year old sanctions.

Furthermore, the visiting delegation stressed the importance of promoting and resuming economic ties with Iraq in all field.

Meanwhile, Minister of Oil Safa' Hadi Jawad received the visiting delegation led by Mr. Bodneski.

Means of enhancing economic, trade and industrial relations as well as expanding programmes of joint cooperation in all spheres were tackled.

In the meantime, Speaker of the National Assembly (Parliament), Sa'di Mahdi Salih met with the Czech parliamentary delegation.

Mr. Salih acquainted head and members of the delegation with the negative consequences arising from the anti-Iraq sanctions.

Mr. Salih also stressed the necessity to enhance relations and cooperation of common interests.

Special Activities Held on War Anniversary

JN1701151895 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1225 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad and the governorates saw large-scale activities today on the fourth anniversary of the U.S.-Zionist aggression against Iraq. Massive popular demonstrations were held at dawn today to condemn the aggression against the bastion of steadfastness and glory. Traffic came to a standstill this morning for five minutes. Cries of "God is great" were raised at mosques, and church bells were sounded in glorification of the righteous martyrs of the Mother of Battles. The first working hours at all Iraq's schools, institutes, and colleges were devoted to speeches on the aggression to explain its dimensions and evil objectives and the extent of hatred harbored by the imperialists and Zionists against Iraq and the Arab nation. All state departments and institutions, in the socialist and mixed sectors, factories, and in production and services facilities worked one overtime hour in response to the aggression and unjust blockade.

Sudanese Ba'thists Demonstrate

JN1701155795 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1226 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the fourth anniversary of the U.S.-Zionist aggression against Iraq, the Sudan Bureau at the National Command of the Arab Socialist Party organized a demonstration at dawn today. It proceeded from al-Rashid street in the direction of the UN office in Baghdad. In their banners and shouts, the Sudanese masses stressed that the crucial battle, the immortal Mother of Battles, will remain a beacon for the Arab nation and a sign of its awakening after Iraq gave an eloquent lesson to the enemies in heroic resistance to the most brutal plot in modern history.

Participants in the demonstration gave a memorandum to the UN representative in Baghdad in which they urged the United Nations to assume its responsibility for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq and to end the suffering of Iraqi children, women, and the elderly caused by the severe food and medicine shortage.

Paper on Call for Peaceful Solution in Kurdistan

JN1801084995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has stressed that our people in the Autonomous Region have always been linked with the great Iraqi people's single militant march to achieve their aspirations in political and economic freedom and to possess an independent will that rejects hegemony and blackmail.

In an article today commenting on the Iraqi political leadership's decision to open its doors wide for any serious national initiative to reach a peaceful solution in Iraqi Kurdistan in a manner that guarantees the region's security and stability under the canopy of autonomy, the paper says: The leadership's important and historic decision, which comes at a time when the region is witnessing an escalation in fighting between the warring gangs, provides an opportunity and a suitable atmosphere to pool efforts to strengthen national unity and abort the suspect schemes.

It adds: The leadership's decision has opened wide horizons for the return of normal life to the Kurdistan Autonomous Region so that it can once again enjoy security, tranquility, and stability in a spirit of fraternity and the common destiny.

The paper stresses that the painful abnormal conditions facing our people there cause sorrow and pain to all Iraqis. These conditions would not have existed if the agents did not link their destiny to the foreigner, who seeks to achieve his evil intentions by obstructing the march of the revolution in Iraq and by creating a state of fragmentation among the citizens of the one people.

The paper concludes its article by asking all citizens in Iraqi Kurdistan to realize a fact that cannot be ignored; that the unity of Arabs and Kurds under the canopy of a united Iraq and under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn is the decisive and substantive factor that can ensure the unity of Iraq, preserve its achievements, and abort all suspect and failed attempts seeking to infringe on the deep-rooted unity of the great people, and which can ensure that the region will once again enjoy security, stability, and the supremacy of law.

Press Notes U.S. 'Pressures' at Manama Summit

JN1501153295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has revealed that the Clinton Administration brought pressures to bear on some Arabian Gulf leaders to make them endorse a host of recommendations regarding the continued enforcement of the Iraq sanctions and the termination of the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity during their recent summit.

The paper adds that Clinton sent a secret message to the leaders attending the Manama Gulf summit on 19 December, recommending that the conferees adopt a resolution calling for tightening the Iraq sanctions. Clinton also urged them to bring pressure to bear on the Arab League to make it revoke the Israel boycott.

The paper publishes on its front page a copy of the letter Clinton sent the Gulf leaders, saying it had obtained the copy after it had been leaked from the shelves of the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The paper commends the pan-Arab stand of some Gulf leaders, who opposed the U.S. pressures, and thwarted the Saudi-Kuwaiti endeavor to ensure the passage of Clinton's recommendations, noting this stand was manifested in the tone and content of the resolutions that were passed. These resolutions did not demonstrate a favorable response to the wishes of Clinton and his stooges.

The paper recalls the news conference Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, defense minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and heir apparent in Dubai, recently held. At that conference, the UAE official said Iraq has met most of the demands of the UN Security Council. Furthermore, he called for extending bridges of amity with Iraq so the Arab nation may reestablish its pan-Arab solidarity.

UN Informed of 1-10 Jan Airspace 'Violations'

JN1701210395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has once again protested the U.S. aircraft's continued violations of Iraqi airspace for purposes of provocation and surveillance, dropping flares and breaking the sound barrier.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative noted that the U.S. aircraft carried out 638 hostile air sorties from 1-10 January over several in northern and southern Iraq.

U.S. TR-10 reconnaissance planes also violated Iraqi airspace nine times. Having accomplished their hostile mission, they flew back in the direction of Kuwait.

The Iraqi delegate asked the UN secretary general to distribute the memorandum as a UN Security Council document.

UN Informed of U.S., UNIKOM 'Violations'

JN1801125695 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has informed the United Nations that the United States continues to conduct provocative acts against Iraq.

In a letter he sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, said that between 11 and 14 December 1994 several U.S. helicopters flew on several occasions on the same day at various altitudes over the Iraqi al-Bakr terminal. He noted that on 11 December a U.S. naval unit approached the eastern side of al-Bakr terminal. The same naval unit, with a gunship on board, returned on the next day, coming as close as 1.5 miles from the terminal.

Iraq's permanent envoy has asked the UN secretary general to exercise his responsibilities as stipulated by the UN Charter and to intervene to stop the repetition of such provocative acts.

In a related development, Iraq asserted that on 11 January a UNIKOM [UN Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission] helicopter flew over Khawr al-Zubayr terminal outside the demilitarized zone in an act constituting a flagrant violation of the mission's mandate.

In a letter of protest he sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus -Ghali, Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, said that this incident constitutes a violation of Iraq's national sovereignty. He asked the secretary general to intervene in accordance with the UN Charter to stop the repetition of such incidents.

Nizar Hamdun asked that the two letters be circulated as UN Security Council documents.

Rabinovich Says Golan Lobby Position Not Majority

TA1801065595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is about to open an office in Washington to struggle against giving up territory. It is possible that other organizations that oppose Israeli Government policy will also be working out of this office.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the lobby against sending U.S. troops to the Golan Heights held a meeting for members of Congress last night, but only five of the 11 invited senators showed up. [passage omitted]

Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said that the major Jewish organizations made it clear to the organizers of the meeting that their positions do not represent the opinion of the majority of U.S. Jewry.

He added that his talks with Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim will resume soon, but there are no expectations of hearing many new Syrian positions.

Al-Asad Remark Said Sign of 'Intention To Attain Peace'

TA1701141495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Intelligence Branch Research Department said that President al-Asad's remarks that the Syrian people should get ready to make tough decisions are oriented toward the option of peace. Addressing a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Brigadier General Ya'aqov 'Amidror said that President al-Asad was referring to the possibility that Syria might recognize Israel and that the Israeli flag might fly in Damascus. Nevertheless, he believes that the Syrian president will not agree to suffer the humiliation of accepting a plan whereby Israel would lease land from Syria.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in the meeting that he fully accepts the Intelligence Branch's assessment and the view that President al-Asad's remarks about the tough decisions lying in store for his people are a manifestation of his intention to attain peace. The prime minister nevertheless pointed out that many people in Syria will still have a hard time digesting a full peace with Israel. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Jordan, Israel Reach Accord on Building Rail Lines

TA1501123695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks between representatives of Israel and Jordan on a joint plan to build railway lines have ended in agreement. The Transportation Ministry's 'Otni'el Schneller said a railway line will be build from Haifa to Irbid, from the Dead Sea to al-'Aqabah and Elat, and from al-Safi in Jordan to the southern Dead Sea. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the plan will be presented to the European Union for help with the financing.

Population Campaign Launched in Valley Settlement

TA1801114895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A population campaign has been launched in the settlement of Ma'ale Efrayim in the Jordan Rift Valley. Some 50 housing units that were built some three years ago will be occupied. Work connecting the houses to the infrastructure, the electric grid, and access roads is currently being completed.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that according to Hayim Aviv, the Ma'ale Efrayim Local Council head, 22 apartments have already been sold. He added that by the end of this year, the settlement will expand by about 20 percent.

Nearly 300 families reside in Ma'ale Efrayim at this time, and about 60 will join it by the end of the summer. According to the council head, there will be no vacant apartments left. The average price of a three-room apartment in Ma'ale Efrayim is $63,000. The council head added that the settlement is located in Development Zone A, which is why the government's instructions on a construction freeze do not apply to it.

Study Shows Private Funding, Government 'Approval'

TA1701154295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 95 p A2

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Gid'on Alon]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hundreds of houses are currently being built in a large number of settlements in the territories, according to a study initiated by Meretz Knesset Member [MK] Dedi Zucker.

A review of 49 settlements in the West Bank conducted earlier this month by investigators Shmu'el David and Tomer Sheinfeld shows that most of the construction is private or done by building societies without any public funds, but with the approval of the local authorities and local government officials. The review did not include Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, Qiryat Arba', and the settlements in the Jordan Valley and in northern Samaria.

The study shows that contrary to the government's policy of freezing construction in the settlements, 325 houses are currently being built in the following locations: 30 in Elqana, 22 in Alfey Menashe, 42 in Sha'arey Tiqva, 30 in Barqan, 161 in Ari'el, and 41 in Hashmona'im. A building drive is also under way in large and small settlements near the Green Line, such as Ma'ale Hashomron (7 houses) and 'Etz Efrayim (5 houses).

MK Zucker points out that private construction has been used to bypass the government's policy since 1992, when the government decided to freeze construction in the settlements. In his opinion, by the time this private construction is completed the settlers' population will have increased by 3,000 to 4,000 people.

The study further shows that the government decision to freeze construction in the settlements has become a worthless piece of paper which is not being observed in many settlements. According to Zucker, government policy is being thwarted in three ways:

—Squatting organized by the local council: In Qarney Shomron, the council helps people move into houses the occupation of which has not been approved by the Housing Ministry. According to the authors of the study, the identity of the organizers who give out the keys to the apartments and connect them to the electricity, telephone, and water networks should be checked.

—Massive sales of apartments the sale of which had been frozen: In Ari'el, in contravention of government policy, hundreds of empty apartments the sale of which had been suspended are now being sold regularly. Some 140 such apartments are currently up for sale. This sale cannot be done without the permission and approval of government authorities.

—Infrastructure work in frozen neighborhoods: Costly infrastructure work continues in several settlements in the West Bank in an open and orderly manner, with funds and budgets, even in neighborhoods the occupation of which had been suspended. Roads are being paved, street lights are being installed, and infrastructure work is under way to connect the houses to electricity, water, and sewage networks in most of Qarney Shomron's Neve Menahem neighborhood. In 'Eli there are 200 empty apartments, and infrastructure work is under way to enable their sale soon.

MK Zucker emphasizes that what the findings show is not that the government ministries have been turning a blind eye, but that the government and the settlers have been cooperating, either actively or passively, in a bid to thwart the decision to freeze construction in the settlements.

The Meretz faction endorsed the document drafted by MK Zucker and ordered its cabinet ministers to submit the findings to the Knesset and to demand clarifications about the fate of 6,500 houses that the government had decided to freeze.

Reacting to the findings, Likud MK and Ari'el Mayor Ron Nahman said it was odd for Meretz, a strong advocate of civil rights, to demand the curtailing of the rights of full-fledged Israeli citizens living in Judaea and Samaria, which would affect their security and economy and the education of their children.

He emphasized that the situation in Judaea and Samaria was like a slap in the face to Meretz and Peace Now and that their efforts to undermine the settlers would ultimately backfire.

IDF 'Disappointed' With Palestinian Police Performance

TA1801065195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in the south report that they are very disappointed with and have no confidence in the Palestinian Police in Gaza. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that these remarks were made during a tour of the autonomy border by the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of the IDF soldiers in the region, said that instead of going out on patrols, the Palestinian policemen drink coffee and play backgammon.

Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of Southern Command, said that IDF activity is restricted and, in fact, it has assumed a defensive position.

Our correspondent adds that Knesset Members Ari'el Sharon, Moshe Peled, and Binyamin Begin brought the issue up with the prime minister. Mr. Rabin replied: We are aware of the problems in the region, and we draw lessons for the continuing talks with the Palestinians.

IDF Said To Carry Out 'Hot Pursuit' in Autonomy

TA1801113295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has said that the army cannot confirm, deny, or elaborate on remarks made in IDF briefings to Knesset committees or members.

At the same time, military sources made it clear to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the statement that the IDF cannot carry out hot pursuits in the autonomy areas—attributed to Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the Southern Command—is not true. The sources told our correspondent that IDF units are called upon to and do carry out hot pursuits whenever they encounter shootings or terror attacks.

Decision To Appoint Envoy to Israel 'Suspended'

JN1801100995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 18 Jan 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by 'Umar Kallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] A well informed source has told AL-ASWAQ that Jordan has suspended its decision to appoint Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir as ambassador to Israel until an Israeli ambassador to Jordan is named. The source said that this decision came in response to what he termed Israel's procrastination in naming its ambassador. It noted that Jordan is not convinced that this delay is due to a dispute between Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres as Israel claims. After Jordan's rejection of Halevi, deputy head of the Israeli Mosad, who was proposed by Rabin, Peres proposed that his office director be appointed as ambassador. However, in order to appease the military generals, Rabin rejected this proposal.

It is known that the director of Peres' office is a political and diplomatic figure, who would win the approval of Jordan after the rejection of the first name to avoid any problems that might arise due to the nature of Halevi's previous work.

The source said that Jordan will suspend its decision until after Israel names its ambassador and he wins Jordan's approval, and will then rename al-Mu'ashshir as ambassador.

King: Border Demarcation 'Can Be Considered Done'

JN1501185995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn today patronized a large celebration the Ministry of Agriculture held in Wadi al-'Arabah on the occasion of the kingdom's celebration of Arbor Day.

Marzuq al-Qutush, our correspondent in al-'Aqabah governorate, filed the following report from the site of the celebration:

[Begin recording] [al-Qutush] His Majesty King Husayn said that the demarcation of Jordanian-Israeli borders will be concluded by the beginning of next month at the latest and that troop positions will be moved at the end of this month. His majesty also said contacts with Arab brothers are continuing, especially with His Excellency Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in order to regain Arab solidarity in the service of the nation's interest.

These statements came during the big celebration held in Wadi al- 'Arabah today under royal patronage on the occasion of the kingdom's celebration of Arbor today.

Speaking to reporters on this occasion, His Majesty King Husayn said:

[Husayn] The future of this site and that of this region and this valley will be a future of peace and good for all the sons of the homeland, God willing. By the way, the demarcation of borders can be considered done and redeployment will be completed in the beginning of next month at the latest. As of the end of this month, the positions of troops will begin to move to new positions, God willing. Praise be to God, our territories have returned to us. There is no doubt that one is extremely happy to have this opportunity to be among his kinsfolk, brothers, and beloved one and to plant. God willing, a green Jordan will become a reality through everyone's efforts and loyalty. God willing, we will see prosperity and this country will remain the country of men and of noble ones. God willing, heads will remain high. They only bow to God almighty.

Through our visits to our brothers in the Gulf, we will try to see if we can use their assistance, as we did before, on the issue of palm trees, which we must focus on.

[Unidentified correspondent] By the way Your Majesty, there was a contact with President Mubarak. Can we say that there is a Jordanian initiative?

[Husayn] Contact is continuous with our brothers, especially President Mubarak. We are in contact from time to time. He is a dear brother. We are approaching a meeting in the near future. When we cooperated with each other, we achieved a lot for Egypt, for Jordan, and for the Arab Nation. Things will return to normal and be stronger than before, God willing

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, is there any intention to turn al-'Aqabah into a free zone?

[Husayn] There are many studies. The problem is that it is difficult to expect a drastic change in the situation overnight. We must study various alternatives and move as quickly as possible. There are many possibilities. The important thing is to choose what is better whether it has to do with this issue or other issues related to this valley during these new circumstances. This needs patience. Moreover, we have shouldered a lot for long years. It needs a bit of time to put things on the right track.

[Correspondents] Thank you.

[Al-Qutush] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur planted two palm trees at site which has been dubbed the forest of peace and was set up at the Jordanian-Israeli border north of al-'Aqabah. [passage omitted] [end recording]

EIB Funds Available for Jordan-Israel Water Projects

JN1401103595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 95 p 12

[Article by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The European Union (EU) has agreed in principle to extend financing for joint Israeli-Jordanian water projects after studies establish the feasibility of the projects, a senior European commission official said Friday [13 January].

Yves Gazzo, head of the Delegation of European Commission in Jordan, said the commission had also offered to finance the feasibility studies.

"There is an agreement in principle that the (EU) would provide financing for the projects after feasibility studies are conducted on the projects," Mr. Gazzo told the JORDAN TIMES.

The Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 calls for several distinct projects to let Jordan have an additional 215 million cubic metres of water every year. These include at least two dams, a pipeline and a water purification plant.

The annex on water of the peace treaty says: "Operation and maintenance of the systems on Israeli territory that supply Jordan with water, with their electricity supply, shall be Israel's responsibility. The operation and maintenance of the new systems that serve only Jordan will be contracted at Jordan's expense to authorities or companies selected by Jordan."

Estimates have put the cost of the projects at around $400 million, with the cost of the dams and water purification plant put at between $150 million and $180 million. The pipeline would pump 50 million cubic metres a year from Lake Tiberias in northern Israel to Jordan. No definite split-ups were available.

The estimated cost of the pipeline project, expected to be built with Jordanian financing, was not immediately known.

Mr. Gazzo said the European Union was making available 1.8 billion European currency units (ECUs), or about $2.2 billion, for "regional projects" as part of the Middle East peace process.

"We have told the parties that financing could be available for good and feasible projects from this fund," which is administered by the European Investment Bank (EIB), an arm of the European Union, Mr. Gazzo said. EIB financing is offered at soft terms carrying low interest.

According to diplomatic sources, Israel is arguing that it is giving "free water" and, as such, it should not be asked to bear any cost of the projects. "They want to consider water as a sort of down-payment and say that Jordan should raise the necessary financing," said a diplomat familiar with the issue.

It was not immediately known whether the issue was discussed in detail between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during a four-hour visit Mr. Rabin paid to Amman on Thursday.

In comments to reporters after the talks, Mr. Rabin, however, referred to the need to address Jordan's water problems as a bilateral issue and part of the Oct. 26 peace accord.

Importance of King Husayn-Rabin Meeting Stressed

JN1401121895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "What Counts is Implementation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reasons for holding the recent Jordanian-Israeli meeting at the highest level—between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—are as important as the requirements that are still necessary to fulfill the conditions of the peace stage as stipulated by the Jordanian-Israeli treaty and to solve the remaining problems according to the Declaration of Principles and its timetables.

This is especially true since the Israeli sluggishness in the recent series of talks between the two sides regarding the completion of security and water agreements and the withdrawal from occupied Jordanian territories have drained the peace process of its momentum and much of its credibility, as well as raising doubts about Israel's true intentions.

Considering the critical circumstances the region is going through and the setbacks facing the entire peace process due to the Israeli policy of procrastination and slowness, asserting commitment to the contents of the peace treaty in both letter and spirit and completing all its articles must be translated into reality and into practical steps that will allow our country and people feel the accomplishments of peace and its benefits on the ground.

The announcement by Israel's prime minister that his government is committed to withdrawing its troops from the Jordanian territories back to the international borders before the scheduled date on 10 February is fundamental. It must take its full dimensions to help resolve other issues and achieve two basic objectives: The first objective is to achieve the hopes that have been pinned to peace and to reinforce the individual's belief in it and in its future benefits. The second objective is to give the comprehensive peace process credibility built on the bases followed in the Jordanian track; that is, on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Jordan, which shouldered the consequences of peace just like it shouldered the consequences of the conflict throughout the past decades, took part in the peace process and signed a peace treaty only because it believes that the future of the countries and peoples of the region depends on achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace and on building the bases of cooperation and good neighborliness that will end the peoples' problems and usher them into the horizons of progress and prosperity and a better future, and not the contrary.

Therefore, we do hope that the results of the Amman meeting will be translated into tangible steps as soon as possible in order to reinforce everyone's confidence in the positive aspects of peace and its benefits for the entire region.

Jordanian-Israeli Treaty Committees Meet

JN1501195695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of accelerating the work of the Jordanian-Israeli committees in charge of implementing the articles of the peace treaty, including Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian territories, the joint Jordanian-Israeli committee held a meeting in Bisan today. Staff Brigadier General Tahsin Shurdum led the Jordanian side while Ambassador Elyaqim Rubinstein led the Israeli side.

Following the meeting, the head of the Jordanian side spoke to our correspondent Khalid Sumayrat about the most prominent issues discussed.

[Begin recording] [Shurdum] Today's meetings come as a result of the meeting His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin held at al-Hashimiyah Palace. The committees working here today are the security committee, the transportation committee, the trade committee, and the water committee.

As you know, these committees are important because the issues discussed are directly linked to the Jordanian citizen and to progress in the peace talks. The committees continued work in a good manner and discussed the rest of the issues. Some committees will stop work for a few days. After that, these committees will hold continuous meetings from 22 January onwards to fully accomplish all their duties. [end recording]

Minister Leaves for Jerusalem Committee Meeting

JN1501133395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti left Amman for Rabat this afternoon leading a Jordanian delegation to participate in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, which will begin in the city of Ifrane tomorrow, Monday.

The committee members will discuss various issues related to Jerusalem, its Islamic shrines, and ways of preserving the Arab and Islamic identity of the holy city.

The committee, headed by His Majesty King Hassan II, Moroccan monarch, is made up of foreign ministers of 15 Arab and Islamic states, and the Secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Editorial on Eve of Jerusalem Committee Meeting

JN1601121595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Message from Morocco"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On the eve of the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, scheduled to meet in Morocco today, the Arab World appeared to be as divided and weak as ever but for the first time in a decade the Arabs seem to be more aware of their problems. While the peace process progresses on some fronts its seems to be stumbling on others, In Algeria, the political parties have at last met, in Rome, and issued a blueprint for a possible national reconciliation. Tension is mounting on the Saudi-Yemeni border. The Iraqi people, under the regime of U.N. sanctions, appear to be destined for at least few more months of hardship.

While Jerusalem, Mecca, Medina, the symbols of Islam and past Arab glory, are supposed to unite the Muslim umma they so far have been points of contention. On the fate of Jerusalem, which is so far being determined only by Israel through surrounding the city with even more settlements, today's meeting in Rabat can achieve a great deal if it could come up with a unified position. Only such a stand can, in fact, help Jordan, the Palestinians and the rest of Arabs and Muslims restore their rights in the Holy City and free it from the yoke of Israeli occupation.

Not only that. A unified position on such a highly sensitive issue would also strengthen the stand of all Arab parties in all their negotiations with the Israelis, including over refugees, regional security and mass-destruction weapons.

No Arab state today denies Israel's security concerns. But whether it is the so-called "Islamic terrorism" or Iran's alleged intention to become a nuclear country, that is perceived as the threat to stability in the Middle East the real danger to peace remains, Israel's continued insistence on keeping Jerusalem as its "eternal capital," as well as its refusal to discuss nuclear disarmament, and Yitzhaq Rabin's resort from time to time to remind us of Israel's readiness and capability to go to war. If the Israelis are genuinely interested in comprehensive peace then Israel has to warm up and understand Arab fears. Israel, by now, should have got the message that has been coming from Egypt in the past few weeks. If it did not, then the conferees in Morocco, led by King Hassan should send even a stronger signal, marked above all, by a unified stand.

'Government Sources' on Upcoming Egyptian-Jordanian Summit

JN1801113995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jan 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Tariq al-Mumani]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Government sources have said that a Jordanian-Egyptian summit between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will be held in Amman on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan. [around 1 February]

According to these sources, the Egyptian president will attend the fast-breaking banquet hosted by his majesty the king on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan. This will be in reply to an official invitation from his majesty that Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti extended during his recent visit to Cairo—a visit which contributed to breaking the stalemate in Jordanian-Egyptian relations.

The sources told AL-RA'Y that talks will deal with relations between the two sisterly countries in all fields and means to reinforce them by activating the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee headed by the prime ministers of both countries.

The sources added that the anticipated summit will also focus on the need to overcome differences between Arab brothers and on means to unify the nation's word and stand on the fateful issues facing it at this critical stage—a stage that calls for an end to all disputes and the restoration of solidarity in order to maintain the interests and resources of the nation and the future of its generations. This stage also calls for supporting the peace process so that all parties will achieve their rights based on international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

The sources hope the Jordanian-Egyptian summit will be a prelude and a cornerstone for improving inter-Arab relations and restoring them to normal. They also hope that such meetings will be crowned with an Arab summit held on the 50th anniversary of the Arab League in March.

The sources welcomed Egypt's efforts in this direction and aid they hope that Egypt will remain the meeting point for all Arabs.

It is noteworthy that President Mubarak's visit to Jordan will be the first since the Gulf crisis.

Government 'Satisfied' With U.S. Meetings on Mideast Bank

JN1401100495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Caroline Faraj; "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan is satisfied with the outcome of meetings held in Washington last week that decided to establish a Middle East development bank to help finance projects in the region, and is looking forward to a follow-up meeting in March, where the details of the proposed bank would be finalised, a senior Jordanian official said Friday [13 January].

Jawad al-'Anani, former minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs and minister of information, who led the Jordanian delegation to the Washington meetings of 37 countries, described the proposed institution as a vitally needed facility to extend financial assistance to the private sector in Jordan and other countries in the region.

Speaking to the JORDAN TIMES and AL-RA'Y from Washington, Dr. al- 'Anani said Jordan was well-qualified to benefit from the proposed bank after it "improved its ability to solve its economic problems and implement the best strategies for economic adjustment."

Jordan was among the leading proponents of the proposal to set up the bank. U.S. President Bill Clinton, in an address to the Jordanian Parliament on Oct. 26, pledged $75 million in American funds to the capital of the proposed bank.

The European Union and some Arab states, particularly oil-rich Saudi Arabia, were initially cool to the idea, but later changed their mind, according to reports from Washington.

Dr. al-'Anani said a preparatory committee would meet in early March to complete all the procedural issues related to the proposed bank and details such as the structure, objectives, shares, budget etc.

In a statement to the press in Washington, Dr. al-'Anani said:

"The Bank's idea does not come out of a void; it is rather a manifestation of an expanded regional paradigm. The Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) of the multilateral negotiations will have a permanent secretariat for its monitoring committee in Amman. This secretariat will forge macro-economic policies including trade, investment, finance, foreign exchange and others. Without such harmonisation, among the regional parties, in terms of these policies, the Bank's scope of work will be constrained. Thus the two institutions will complement each other in creating a new cooperation and development era in the Middle East.

"Participation in the bank will not be limited to the countries which will enter into it in the initial stage. The door will be kept open for other regional and international parties to participate in the future.

"Jordan is satisfied with this outcome of the meeting. We are also satisfied that this idea, which we helped in initiating, studying and defending, is expected to see the light in the forthcoming Amman Economic Conference, due to convene in the period Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1995."

House Criticizes UN Decision on Iraq

JN1601133695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Jan 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday [15 January] condemned the U.N. Security Council's decision last week to maintain the sanctions against Iraq. The House said Baghdad's "fulfillment" of its obligations to the international community had rendered the embargo unjustified.

Reiterating Jordan's support for the Iraqi people, the House urged all international organisations and parliaments to exert effort to end the suffering of "our Iraqi brethren."

In a statement issued during a session it held Sunday, the House said: "There is no justification for continuing this unfair embargo."

The statement was issued at the request of Deputy Talal 'Ubaydat (Irbid), who criticized Arab countries for maintaining the sanctions against Iraq at a time when they have lifted all "forms of boycott" against Israel.

The statement was the only deviation from the House's agenda for the session which mainly dealt with domestic issues and approved two draft laws on the transfer and registration of property and fixed assets.

Responding to a question by Islamic Action Front Deputy Ahmad al- Kawfahi (Irbid), Minister of Islamic Affairs 'Abd-al-Salam al- 'Abbadi rejected accusations by the deputy that the ministry had stopped mosque preachers from delivering sermons for no other reason but "speaking the truth."

Dr. al-'Abbadi said the ministry investigated 35 mosque preachers on charges of violating the law. Only those who were found guilty of violating the law were stopped from delivering sermons at mosques. Those found innocent, he said, were allowed back to practise their job.

Deputy Nazih 'Ammarin (al-Karak) asked the government to explain the unavailability of "important" drugs in the market while Deputy Hammad Abu-Jamus (Amman) challenged the government to find alternative employment opportunities for thousands of unemployed Jordanians in light of its decision to freeze hiring in 1995.

The House also approved, and the government accepted, the recommendations of the Agriculture Committee to look into demands by livestock breeders to raise the prices of milk to make up for the increase in production costs.

The committee recommended that the government form a technical committee to study the farmers' demands in order to reach a decision that would "do justice to both producers and consumers."

The committee also recommended that the farmers' debts to the Jordan Cooperative organisation be paid in accordance with a schedule that would take into account the harvesting seasons of crops.

The House, which will hold its next meeting Wednesday [18 January], also referred to its judicial committee a draft law on the establishment of a union for artists and a draft law on insurance, which was sent back to the House by the Upper House of Parliament after amending it.

11 Parties Condemn Embargo

JN1701160095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Eleven political parties Monday [16 Janurary] issued a statement denouncing the continuation of the U.N.-imposed embargo on Iraq and describing the sanctions as a violation of human rights and human dignity.

This embargo, imposed since 1990 is no longer justified, but it clearly reflects the American administration's bitter hatred and enmity towards the Iraqi people and its determination to humiliate and subjugate them, said the statement.

The statement was issued one day after the Lower House of Parliament condemned the U.N. Security Council's decision last week to maintain the sanctions on Iraq.

Israeli Forces Reportedly Reinforce Positions

NC1701180395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing the Lebanese security agencies, AFP has reported that the Israeli Army has reinforced its positions that face the southern part of al-Biqa's eastern plain.

According to the sources, 12 tanks and six 75-mm and 175-mm artillery batteries were moved last evening from northern Israel to the occupied border strip. They were deployed in three Israeli positions on the borders of the eastern sector.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel will not hold negotiations with Lebanon until the Lebanese Government disarms Hizballah and prevents operations against the Israeli troops in the south.

Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim rejected these Israeli terms, affirming that the resistance decision is to fight Israel until the last inch of land is liberated from occupation. He said that the party will chase Lahd's [South Lebanese Army—SLA] troops and kill them. He described SLA men as criminals.

Israel earlier requested the integration of SLA personnel into the Lebanese Army as a condition for signing a peace treaty with Lebanon.

UN Spokesman Denies Report

NC1801122395 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Several artillery shells fired from Israeli positions in al-'Ayshiyah fell in the areas of Birkat Jabbur and Jabal Abi Rashid at dawn today. Several illumination flares were also dropped over the western plateaus of Mount Hermon. In the morning, the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army carried out a large-scale raking with small arms in the Hasbayya-Zummarayya sector for more than one hour.

A short time ago our correspondent in Tyre said that Timor Gokseil, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], and Hizballah Political Bureau Member Hasan Hubballah had discussed the latest developments in the south. They stressed the two sides' eagerness to maintain and develop their relations in the interests of the people of the south. In a statement earlier today, Goksel expressed surprise at reports that Israel had sent reinforcements to the south. He drew attention to the need for accurate reporting in this and the UN secretary general. He praised the strong relations between UNIFIL and the Lebanese people.

Hizballah Leader Rejects Rabin's 'Conditions'

NC1801080195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah's decision is to fight Israel until the last inch of occupied territory is liberated. This is what Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim stressed in his reply to the Zionist conditions set by Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Lebanese territory, territory he desecrated a few days ago. Shaykh Qasim rejected the conditions, particularly those relating to the assimilation of Lahd [South Lebanese Army] elements in the Lebanese Army.

Shaykh Qasim said the Islamic Resistance will pursue Lahd's agents, stressing that they are criminals who must be punished.

'Source' on Syrian Concerns Over Security Committee

MM1801103495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din: "Damascus Concerned Over Security Committee"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A well-informed Lebanese source has said that Syria has concerns over the Lebanese-U.S. security committee, which will meet this month in the United States. The source added that Syria's allies in Lebanon expressed fears that the United States might try to drag Lebanon into certain political positions, or to talk about issues such as the hijacked planes, Hizballah, abolition of the resistance in the south, and other issues which the Syrians consider fundamental.

However, the source pointed out that these Syrian concerns are not as big as the existing "hysteria" over them in Beirut, stressing the need to differentiate between caution and rejection. The source pointed out that Syria is expressing caution and concern over this committee and the rules governing its work if the United States tries to drag it into this or that question.

The source said that President Hafiz al-Asad alerted the Lebanese side to potential dangers, recalling that the Syrians were in the past dragged into a similar situation which led to no results. The source added that some Lebanese have been inclined to exaggerate concerns over the committee's work.

The source said that the Syrians wish to hear something to the effect that this committee will not discuss the situation in the south—although the Lebanese have already made such a statement—and the Hizballah entity, and that there is a specific agenda for the committee. And that Lebanese Ambassador to Washington Riyadh Tabbarah will always be at the head of the delegation, and that the committee's proceedings will not be tantamount to negotiations between military officials who have no experience in political negotiations. The source added that the Syrians also wish to ascertain that they will receive reports from the Lebanese ambassador on the course of the committee's work. [passage omitted]

The source said that the committee's job is just to hold talks and to tell the United States that the measures it took in certain circumstances are no longer justifiable. Lebanon now has an army which is 50,000-strong. Thisis the strongest army Lebanon has ever had since independence. It is trained to the required standard, effective, and deployed in all areas. This is in addition to the security forces, which are 25,000-strong, the largest since Beirut airport, and there are well-organized facilities. [passage omitted]

Commentary Stresses Need for 'Total Withdrawal'

JN1701155095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Every Arab citizen would agree that the immunity of the nation comes as a result of its countries' determination to adhere to pan-Arab principles and bases, to establish real solidarity, and to crystallize a unified position toward the current basic issues, foremost of which is the peace cause in the region. Every Arab citizen would also agree that the Arab nation's current state of disruption and dispute is causing much grief and severely damaging Arab interests. Consequently, Israel has registered penetrations not only in the international arena, but also in the Arab perimeter. Some Arabs have turned their backs on principles and bases and plunged into unilateral deals with Israel—deals which later proved to be a disaster for them and their cause.

President Hafiz al-Asad said that submission and surrender to the enemy cannot lead to salvation, which can be achieved first and last through Arab accord and solidarity. There can never be any solution at the expense of dignity and land. Any humiliating solution is rejected and condemned and is no solution at all. Daily events in the occupied Arab territories, as well as Israel's disavowal of its commitments and promises, even though they are weak, and its insistence on humiliating the self-rule authority and stripping it of its simplest implications, should be an eloquent lesson for those who seek unilateral deals and try to depart from pan-Arab unanimity and the principles and bases of a just and comprehensive solution. It is not Israel's habit to return land it has usurped from the Arabs by force unless there is a collective Arab will and a real Arab determination to regain that land regardless of the extent of the sacrifice.

Everybody knows that relinquishing rights and dignity by the proponents of the Oslo agreement has reflected negatively on the Palestinian people's cause in particular and the other peace tracks in general. Israel believes that such a relinquishment of land should occur on the other tracks. Hence, it refuses to implement UN Security Council Resolutions calling for a total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Instead of responding to the bases of the peace process and the land-for-peace principle, the Israeli prime minister leveled war threats, escalated his sinful aggression on southern Lebanon, and sent an army of tractors, drillers, and bulldozers to the West Bank to build more settlements. Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities disclosed plans to annex large areas of the West Bank.

Syria has been repeatedly warning of the absence of Arab solidarity and of the dangers of Israel's procrastination and its hostility to peace. It warned the Arabs against being deceived by Israel's false promises and urged them to adhere to the principles and bases of just peace and to the resolutions of the world community and to place the higher pan-Arab interests above false security gains. Syria also warned international parties sponsoring the peace process about Israel's attempts to circumvent the bases, the goals, and the framework of the Madrid conference with the aim of destroying the overall peace process.

Look! Many voices in the international community are being raised today denouncing Israel's excesses and its flagrant violation of a peace process that is being threatened with collapse. This serious situation should be a strong incentive for unifying the Arab ranks, putting differences aside, and confronting essential issues. Syria has begun persistent endeavors in this regard. As a result, the Alexandria summit was held as a beginning of a pan-Arab awakening, and President al-Asad's initiative succeeded in containing the border crisis between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. As a result, the two fraternal countries responded to these good endeavors. The Arabs have no choice but to face up to the challenges and to deal with all their issues in a genuine pan-Arab spirit. This requires overcoming peripheral differences and sensitivities, stopping every plan to normalize relations with Israel, and working to mobilize the energies until Israel responds to the requirements of territories, foremost of which are Jerusalem, the Golan, and southern Lebanon.

Press Hails Initiative To End Saudi-Yemeni Dispute

JN1801102295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Jan 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "Life Buoy," TISHRIN discusses the importance of President Hafiz al-Asad's initiative to contain the border problem between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, stressing that this initiative provided a ray of hope that revived confidence in the possibility of dealing with the bad Arab situation.

The paper says: Israel and the enemies of the Arabs are saying day in and day out that the current Arab situation cannot be fixed and that the Arabs' salvation can only be achieved when they discard their Arab character, abandon their pan-Arab identity, and come under the new Middle East order, which will be led by Israel. By promoting this argument, Israel aims at driving the Arab nation into despair and capitulation.

TISHRIN stresses that the means to improve the Arab situation are available. These can be found in strengthening the institutions of joint Arab action, bolstering cooperation and coordination among the Arab states, defusing tension and ending differences in inter-Arab relations, adopting Arab solutions to these differences, adhering to a firm position on the conditions for achieving a just and comprehensive peace, and stopping the rush toward Israel.

TISHRIN says: The success of the Syrian initiative in ending the state of tension between Saudi Arabia and Yemen has confirmed the advantage of Arab solutions and their ability to contain and end the most complicated crises and problems in the Arab arena. If everyone had stuck to this course the Arab nation would have been in a much better situation than it is now and it would not have suffered all those grave tragedies and losses.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Events have confirmed that the individual salvation cannot provide security, stability, or prosperity to any Arab party. Events have also confirmed that the real life buoy for the entire Arab nation can be found in rapprochement, militant solidarity, adherence to Arab rights, an end to attempts at unilateral handling of critical Arab issues, and confronting Israel's expansionist and aggressive schemes, which does not spare any of the Arabs.

In an editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The Alexandria summit was the nucleus of the indispensable awakening necessary to defuse a crisis threatening two sisterly countries, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

When the Arab and world political quarters agree on valuing leader al-Asad's initiative, they confirm the credibility and correctness of Syria's stand, which has risen to the level of pan- Arab responsibility, and which has assumed a leading position and become the focus of all hopes and aspirations.

AL-BA'TH explains that Syria, which accepted the peace initiative and fought the battle for peace with all pride, manliness, and courage, did so out of compliance with international legitimacy and concern for all Arab rights. Although Israel sought to weaken its position by weakening the entire Arab condition, Syria remained steadfast, adhering to its position, which is based on political principles, and not knowing tameness or capitulation.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Syria is fighting the battle for peace on behalf of all Arabs. Supporting its position means supporting the Arab position to defend the nation's rights and interests.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says in a commentary: Everybody views leader Hafiz al-Asad's initiative to defuse tension between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, return things to normal, and not resort to the use of force as a first practical step on the path to ending all causes of estrangement to prepare for reviving and reactivating Arab solidarity to face the critical circumstances through which our Arab nation is passing and to confront the serious world developments.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that events have confirmed the credibility of Syria's national and pan-Arab course. They have also confirmed that Syria is keen on maintaining a united Arab position since such a position is the practical way to achieve the agreed-upon objective; that is, the just and comprehensive withdrawal from all Arab territory and a return to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Agriculture Minister Returns From Tehran Visit

JN1801074095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As'ad Mustafa, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, this evening returned to Damascus from Tehran after attending a conference of agriculture ministers from the Islamic Conference Organization member states, which was held in the Iranian capital. On his way home, the minister visited Abu Dhabi and met with the United Arab Emirates agriculture minister. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Security Officials Capture British Spy 'Red-Handed'

LD1601150095 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Security officials of Hezb-e Wahdat e-Eslami captured a foreign spy. A responsible source of Hezb-e Wahdat e-Eslami security told an RPA [Radio Payam-e Azadi] correspondent that security officials from Hezb-e Wahdat e-Eslami captured a foreign spy red-handed in the area under its control. It is said that the spy is a British citizen and is associated with the British military intelligence network, and that he confessed that he is a [words indistinct] member of British intelligence.

He also said that Sayd Husayn Anwari [member of Harakat-e Eslami, minister of labor and social affairs and member of the High State Council]; Sayd Mohammad Ali Jawed, [member of Harakat-e Eslami, minister of planning and member of the High State Council]; and Ayatollah Fazel, [member of the Wahdat-e Eslami] are active members of the British intelligence network and that they work for this organization within the country.

UN's Mestiri Views Cease-Fire Negotiations

LD1501140195 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan. 15, IRNA—U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan Mahmud Mestiri, currently staying in eastern town of Jalalabad is expected to proceed to northern Afghanistan to meet Governor of Herat Ismail Khan as part of his shuttle diplomacy to end the lingering Afghan crisis, Afghan sources said here on Sunday [15 January].

Mestiri flew to Jalalabad the other day and met local Afghan commanders and discussed his proposals for resolving the crisis that has claimed scores of civilian people since April 1992 when rival Afghan groups take over Kabul after the collapse of communist regime.

Mestiri, in an interview with Jalalabad television, described as fruitful his talks with Uzbek warlord General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam in northern town of Mazar-e Sharif and religious students (talibaan) controlling southwestern province of Kandahar.

He said that Dostam and talibaan had assured their help for U.N. efforts for resolving the conflict.

Meanwhile, Hezb-e Eslami faction led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar lifted the blockade of Afghan capital controlled by his arch-rival President Borhanoddin Rabbani announcing that all roads leading to Kabul would remain open for a week.

Hekmatyar had agreed to remove checkposts at routes leading to Kabul for a week to facilitate efforts being made for the transfer of power from Rabbani whose extended term in office lapsed on December 28.

Hekmatyar also declared week-long ceasefire in the war-torn country that had become weary of factional fighting that has claimed thousand of innocent lives and injuring many others.

Dostum Major General Defects to Islamic Army

LD1701183095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A commander of Dostum's militia, together with his men, came over to the side of the Islamic Army in Konduz Province.

The military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency reported that Major General Khodaynazar, commander of the 78th Border Regiment of Dostum's militia, together with his 25 men, surrendered to the mojahedin around Konduz Province. This commander was welcomed by a number of commanders and officials of this province.

In a statement, the commander said: We give assurance to the government to defend the lofty values of Islam and to struggle against the enemies of peace and sovereignty of the country.

80 Militiamen Defect

LD1601175595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As many as 80 armed men of Dostam's militia joined the mojahedin of Dara-e Suf in Samangan. According to a report by Mawlawi Muhammad Eslam Khan and Haji Habibollah from Samangan Province, two commanders of Dostam's forces by the names of Commander Abdolbaha and Commander Dost Mohammad, realizing the righteousness of the jihad and the Islamic State of Afghanistan, today severed links with the militiamen and joined the ranks of the Islamic Army, along with their 70 armed men. The reports says that the defected men's weapons include 60 Kalashnikovs, [words indistinct], one DShK [machine gun], and one piece of (?12 mm) artillery. [words indistinct]

Government Captures Militia Positions in Balkh

LD1601180195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of fierce battles in Balkh Province, 30 fortified positions of the militiamen have been captured by the mojahedin. According to a report by a source of the Ministry of Defense, in the course of fierce fighting which has continued for two days in Sholgara District, Balkh Province, 30 fortified positions of the militia have been conquered by the forces of the Islamic Army and the mojahedin. The report adds: as a result of the fighting, several villages have been purged of the militia. In the course of the fighting, five militiamen were killed, 12 others were injured, and 30 of them were taken prisoner. Fighting continues in the area.

Bangladesh

PRC Army Delegation Meets President Biswasa

BK1401141395 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A nine-member high-level Chinese army delegation called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas in Dhaka on Saturday [14 January]. Talking to the members of the Chinese delegation, President Biswas said that Bangladesh has got an excellent relations with China. President said that defense cooperation between Bangladesh and China is on the increase and taking shape in the correct perspective. He hoped that in the interest of both the countries and the armed forces, their friendship and cooperation will grow further.

The leader of the Chinese delegation, General Fu Quanyou, assured all help and support to Bangladesh armed forces. He praised the progress made by Bangladesh in various socioeconomic sectors. Gen. Fu conveyed the greetings of Chinese president to President Biswas.

Opposition Leader Rules Out Return to Parliament

BK1501160595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1439 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Jan 15 (AFP)—Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed on Sunday [15 January] ruled out a return to parliament by opposition MPs who resigned last month, pressing their call for fresh elections to end the political crisis in Bangladesh.

"There is no chance the opposition will return," she told several thousand supporters of her Awami League party before leading a march in Dhaka.

"The prime minister should hand over power to a caretaker government to pave the way for general elections," she added.

The march was a part of the campaign to oust the Bangladesh Nationalist Party government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia amid a 10-month-old standoff.

The opposition has been boycotting parliament since March to push their demands for a new election under a neutral caretaker. On December 28, 147 MPs resigned en masse to increase the pressure on the government.

League leaders believe early elections would be held in the first half of 1996 and have urged party workers to prepare for polls.

Wajed's comments came hours after the Bangladesh Supreme Court extended by another month its stay of execution on a High Court verdict ordering the opposition MPs to end their crippling parliamentary boycott.

Justice A.T.M. Afzal issued the extension at the request of defendants seeking more time for an appeal against last month's High Court verdict.

Afzal also ordered opposition leaders appealing the verdict—Wajed, Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed and Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami—to submit their formal appeal within a month.

The latest stay came as parliament speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali was pondering what to do with the mass resignation of the opposition MPs, but Wajed on Sunday ruled out the possibility of calling off their move.

The opposition leaders challenged the High court verdict, saying parliament boycott was a purely political matter and the judiciary should not interfere.

Zia reiterated Sunday her appeal to the opposition to return to parliament at her own party's rally outside Dhaka and said the 330-member house was the proper forum for discussing all national issues.

India

'Post-Visit' Reaction Roundup to Perry's Visit

BK1701142895

[FBIS Editorial Report] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry ended his visit to the South Asia region on 14 January. A brief summary of commentary and editorials follows from media covered by Bangkok Bureau for 16-17 January: While there were a few voices of caution and distrust, the media generally considered the Perry visit in a favorable light.

Delhi THE PIONEER in English, an independent newspaper, published an article on 16 January which said "if anything stands out" about the visit, "it is the clear indication that the security relationship between the two countries is yet to evolve." It added that "the two countries are slowly thawing towards each other and the contours of future relationship, as it may evolve, are yet unclear." Regarding the defense cooperation "agreed minutes," the article stated "such an agreement has its risks since in public perception in this country, U.S.-Pakistan relations are as close as ever despite the Pressler Amendment." It concluded: "Both sides will benefit from the realisation that greater transparency and openness in their relations vis-a-vis the people in both countries is essential for a sound and longlasting relationship." Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi, a centrist newspaper, published an editorial on 17 January which noted "there are some aspects which cause doubt about the U.S. concern for world peace." It added that "it is clear that despite pleas of frankness and transparency, the United States does not trust India." It concluded: "The main aim of William Perry's recent visit seems to be to try and make Pakistan its foremost strategic post."

Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English on 16 January published an article which called the Perry visit "a milestone" in relations that marks "the beginning of a new phase in a hitherto unexplored area with considerable potential." The centrist newspaper Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi on 16 January published an editorial which said the defense agreement "will add a new dimension" to cooperation. An article published on 17 January in Delhi THE TIMES OF INDIA in English said that "we should not be weighed down by any ideological baggage" as the two countries enhance defense cooperation. It urged "every effort should be made to bridge the gaps between" the two countries' policies. And it concluded with the hopeful statement that "the U.S. is sooner or later bound to come round to our point of view." Delhi All India Radio in English on 17 January carried a commentary which said the visit "will mark a new era not only in defense cooperation between India and the United States but will also give a positive direction" to bilateral relations. While it noted that "there was no convergence on issues of importance to both sides," the commentary concluded: "Indo-U.S. cooperation in defense fields should foster peace and stability not only in South Asia but also in the entire world."

Editorials View Defense Agreement with U.S.

Cooperation Called Significant

BK1401125595 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 14 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Defense Agreement With the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one would have imagined that within eight months of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's Washington visit in May last year, both countries will sign a far-reaching significant defense cooperation agreement because the prime minister had decided to visit the United States despite strong opposition at home. At that time, the U.S. visit was opposed because the United States was asking India not to deploy the Agni and Prithvi missiles. Before this, the United States had succeeded its campaign to stop Russia from fulfilling the transfer of cryogenic rocket engine technology to India. It was on this very issue that there was lot of discussion during the prime minister's visit to the U.S., both within and outside the parliament. An anti-American wave also was sweeping India. Because of the U.S. attitude, India had slowed down the pace of the military cooperation program which had been going on with the United States for the last three years. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry met the prime minister during his Washington visit and urged him not only to bring the defense cooperation program back on track but also to increase its pace. The prime minister agreed to continuing cooperation at the military level and after about three months, without any government propagation, U.S. Marines conducted joint exercises with Indian marine commandos. About two years before this, the United States and India had conducted joint naval exercises near Cochin.

Now, this sphere of defense cooperation at the military level will progress further after the signing of the defense cooperation agreement. Senior officials of the defense ministries of both countries have formed a joint committee to hold discussions on strategic issues of mutual interest. A meeting of this joint committee is going to be held after a few months and it is possible that at the meeting the United States will urge India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and not deploy missiles. But Indian officials will get an opportunity to explain the reasons behind India's not signing the NPT and continuing the missile program when they sit face to face with U.S. authorities at the joint meeting. As a matter of principle, India is against nuclear and missile propagation but it wants this principle enforced on a global level and not on a regional level. i.e only in South Asia. Acceptance of a regional approach to these issues would be tantamount to strategic suicide and make India considerably weak militarily. The process of defense cooperation at the state level between the two countries, which will be initiated by the Indo-U.S. cooperation agreement, hopefully will help India make its position clear to the United States.

'Good Beginning' to Relations

BK1401135595 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 14 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Indo-U.S. Defense Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense agreement signed between India and the United States should be considered part of the same series of success which was initiated by the successful visit to the United States by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. After the talks between Bill Clinton and Narasimha Rao, not only have the differences between the two countries been removed but a good beginning to mutual relations also has taken place. It is a matter of satisfaction that the cordial relations between the two countries are improving day by day. The truth is that a defense-related agreement between the United States and India should have taken place long ago but this could not happen because at that time a large group of Indian leaders, who viewed the United States as an imperialistic nation, were fiercely opposed to it. It is not that the United States had not endeavored to have a defense-related agreement with India from the very beginning, but India expressed unwillingness at that time. As a member of the Nonaligned Movement, India decided not to get involved in the Cold War but now, when the international situation has changed and the Cold War has ended, India has taken a wise step by signing a defense-related agreement with the United States. It remains to be seen how useful this agreement actually proves to be in the defense interests of

India. This defense agreement also was necessary because our neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan, have adopted an aggressive attitude towards India. Now Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has threatened "if India doesn't agree with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and if relations between the two countries do not improve, it could lead to war." In view of this threat given by the Pakistani prime minister, India should make substantial changes in its defense policy.

Today, the United States is the only nation which can compel Pakistan to follow the right direction. Everyone is aware, particularly the United States, that Pakistan has developed nuclear weapons and it cannot prevent Pakistan from continuing to do so. The United States has not been successful in preventing Pakistan from supporting terrorism. In this context, it is strange that despite being opposed to terrorism in principle, the United States has been unable to restrain Pakistan from supporting terrorism. This weakness in U.S. policy is proving to be an obstruction to Indian diplomacy and meaningful relations between India and the United States. It would be appropriate for the United States to play a creative role for the purpose of peace in Asia. Undoubtedly, the United States cannot play this role until it opposes Islamic terrorism. This is a problem to which the United States will have to pay attention sooner or later. Islamic fundamentalism and Islamic terrorism can prove to be a big problem in the future and the United States is fully aware of the type of Islamic terrorism Pakistan is supporting because India is also opposed to Islamic fundamentalism and Islamic terrorism. Hence, a firm agreement can take place between the two nations for dealing with this problem. It would be desirable that along with a defense-related agreement between India and the United States, a similar agreement to deal with terrorism also is signed.

U.S. Perceptions Not Likely 'Altered'

BK1401091795 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Perry and Prithvi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is safe to predict some new momentum in Indo-US defence cooperation following the signing of agreed minutes by India's Minister of State for Defence and the visiting US Defence Secretary. The formality continues a process in which was witnessed in recent years, among other things, joint naval exercises, US assistance to India's Light Combat Aircraft project and India refuelling facilities to US transport aircraft. High-level Ministry of Defence and Pentagon interaction as well as defence personnel contacts and limited joint defence production provided for in the new document will broaden the defence relationship more rapidly. However, it is important to emphasise the virtues of a gradualist approach in this new post-Cold War territory. Major differences on nuclear and missile policy and the transfer of sensitive technologies remain. Rightly India and the US are going ahead where they find common ground in the hope that greater cooperation where it is possible in military as in other departments will encourage the meeting of minds in the problematic areas. Wide divergence in the Indian and American standpoint on crucial security issues and Pakistan's place in US calculations must, however, limit the scope for improvements in the Indo-US defence and bilateral relationship.

Mr William Perry has certainly been at pains in Islamabad and New Delhi to avoid showing any kind of American tilt in the subcontinent. He has also reportedly thrown hints about Washington's readiness to help India and Pakistan resolve their bilateral problems. New Delhi should always welcome any initiative which may make Pakistan see reason, but Washington cannot expect India to agree to a third party mediation on Kashmir. On another plane avoiding the zero-sum game has entangled the Americans in various kinds of ambiguities on questions of arms sales and transfer of dual-use technologies although Washington's attitude to cross-border terrorism is becoming more helpful. However, on missile programmes Mr Perry did allow himself to be outspoken. Any step involving deployment of the Prithvi or M-11s would be clear escalatory action", he said in Islamabad, confirming once again where Washington is now trying to draw the line on proliferation in South Asia. His other remarks, on interpreting dual-use technologies more liberally in this age of freer trade, and American eagerness to get a better understanding of India's security interests and more transparency in defence planning, must be read in this context. It is quite likely New Delhi has put forth its views candidly, but the American perception of India's real security environment is not likely to be altered for a long time yet.

Cabinet Approves Foreign Investment Projects

BK1301050795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Cabinet Committee on Foreign Investment has approved the grant of licenses to 15 companies for radio paging services. It also cleared the proposal of an American telecom company to set up two pilot projects based on optical fiber and wireless technologies. The two pilot projects will involve an investment of $1 billion. The companies will come up between Bangalore and Mysore in Karnataka, and in Erode, Salem, Coimbatore, and Dharmapuri belt of Tamil Nadu. The cabinet committee approved foreign investment of over 600 crore rupees in three projects. These are the Haldia refinery, and export-oriented 3 million tons oil refinery in Tamil Nadu, and an integrated paper project with a captive sugar plant in the Bijnor District of Uttar Pradesh.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which also met yesterday, approved the expansion of the Vindhyachal super thermal power project with an outlay of more 3,750 crore rupees. It also cleared a 620 crore rupee scheme for better power grid management in the southern region. It cleared a proposal by Air India to acquire two Boeing aircraft at a cost of over 1,130 crore rupees.

Minister Inaugurates Center for Information Service

BK1401114095 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas in English 1010 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, inaugurated the country's first computer center for worldwide information service called CWB at a function in New Delhi this morning. The service set up over the National Informatic Center Network will link 200 information networks in over 150 countries. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukherji said the CWB assumes great significance with the recent opening of the worldwide information network Internet for commercial application. He said in the years to come Internet is poised to become the prime carrier of commercial information world over through computer network. He said electronic data interchange and electronic commerce have become essential today for every developing country to trade with the Western world.

Editorial Condemns Espionage by Intelligentsia

95AS0135B Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 3 Dec 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Blood Boiling News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We held our heads high with pride when our scientists succeeded in launching guided missiles into space one after another with great precision. Today we bow our heads low in shame when we find that some poisonous germs have crept into the world of intellectuals.

All the valuable fruits of the past 40 years' research in space technology have been easily smuggled out of our country. The foreign countries that have smuggled our secrets can build these guided missiles easily within three months and then use them. When we came to know that a few scientists themselves have been accomplices in this process of smuggling the secrets, we noted that the intelligentsia has stooped to a low level. The words integrity, discipline and patriotism seem to have lost their significance and become quite meaningless.

Patriotism does not live in mere words nor in shouting slogans, but only in deeds. For some time now in our country, a new culture that extols money is flowering. A new notion has now emerged in our country that with money you can buy power, knowledge, ads, and flattering tributes. This is because, here politics is based on money and power; education is just a commercial product.

The first victim of this money culture is the educated, middle class. The people of this middle class are struggling to achieve the name and fame due them, but when they find that money can be had through shortcuts, they come to the conclusion that money is the only thing that really matters in life. They are prepared to get that money by any means, even by selling out their own country.

On the other side, our foes are waiting for just such an opportunity. Pakistan, which cannot defeat us either by [its] military strength, economic development or propaganda effort, thinks it can succeed and defeat us by sabotage and conspiracy. Pakistan has been involved in many secret sabotage activities against our country. The educated class, which worships money, falls prey to the tempting words of Pakistan. In the future, it is going to be a bigger problem to protect the country from the greedy educated class than to work for giving relief to the suffering illiterate masses of our country.

When our mind is darkened with clouds of distress and sorrow, the words of our great poet Bharati echo so eloquently. "If an educated person does evil deeds, Surely he is bound to perish miserably."

Tamil Nadu Congress-I President Removed

BK1201023095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Tamil Nadu Congress-I Committee president, Mr. V.K. Ramamurti, has been removed and Mr. Kumari Anandan, appointed in his place. The AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, announced this in New Delhi this evening. He said that the Congress-I chief, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has made the appointment as authorized by the working committee. Mr. Poojary said the PCC-I [Pradesh-State—Congress Committee-I] executive will be constituted shortly. The new arrangement takes effect immediately. Political observers say that the move seems to be aimed at checking indiscipline in the party. It comes in the wake of Mr. Ramamurti's criticism of the Congress-I high command.

The new Uttar Pradesh Congress-I Committee president, Mr. Jitendra Prasad, has directed four senior party men to resign from their posts in certain state bodies and commissions. He told PTI in New Delhi today that they have also been asked to relinquish all facilities extended to them by the Mulayam Singh Yadav government. These leaders are Mr. Pramod Tiwari, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission; Begum Nur Banu, vice chairman of the Women Welfare Board; Mr. Zaidi, chairman of the Urdu Academy; and Mr. Rizvi, vice chairman of the National Integration Committee. Mr. Prasad, who is visiting Lucknow tomorrow, said that the stand on the issue of withdrawal of support to the state government will be decided after discussions with party men in the state. He said his priority is to revive the party and strengthen its organizational structure in the state.

Gadgil Challenges Rama Rao's Claims

95AS0135C Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 3 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, 3 Dec.—N.T. Rama Rao's claim that during his Telegu Desam party [TDP] rule, rice was distributed at Rs. 2 per kilo, is not right; in fact it was the central government which ordered that rice should be distributed among tribals at Rs. 1.80 per kilo and dispatched rice for distribution. Mr. V.N. Gadgil, spokesman of the Congress party, said there is nothing for Rama Rao to brag about.

Speaking to the newsmen on Friday [2 December] in New Delhi, he also said: "It was during the administration of Rama Rao, who boasts of serving the poor people, that landlords and rich people thrived. In the matter of cooperative societies, the Andhra Pradesh high court has condemned Rama Rao's actions.

During the teachers and non-gazetted officers' strike, it was Rama Rao who did not hesitate to use provisions under the national defense act and the act for protecting special services. Even in cases of justified protest, he used severe measures of suppression. It was also Rama Rao who filed falsely framed criminal cases against important communist party leaders, C. Rajeshwar Rao, P. Nageswara Rao and T. Mallayya" Gadgil went on to say.

Iran

Israel Warned of 'Decisive Response' To 'Threat'

LD1401113495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the recent threat by the Zionist regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, a senior military official at the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces has said: Any military threat against the security and the national interests of Islamic Iran will receive a decisive response. The aggressor enemy will regret any such deed. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to support order and stability in the Middle East and condemns any expansionist or provocative act.

This military official of our country's Armed Forces General Headquarters pointed out the expansionist aims of the Zionist regime in the region and added: This regime, by accusing certain countries of the region of trying to obtain nuclear weapons, intends to hide the activities of its own armaments factories. Through the creation of a climate of mistrust toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, it seeks to accelerate the arms race in the region and increase the sale of American weapons to the countries of the region.

He underlined the Islamic Republic of Iran's adherence to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and continued: The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always guarded the territorial integrity of Islamic Iran. Any aggressive act against the country will be dealt with by the Armed Forces.

Official on Campaign Against Nuclear Program

JN1301213295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Interview with Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister for Arab and African Affairs, by correspondent Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni in Tehran; date not given; from "The Event" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sheykholeslam] The main Israeli objectives for making these threats is to sidestep the commitments and promises it ought to implement in exchange for the humiliating privileges the Arab countries have obtained. The truth is that this state of affairs is a catastrophe for the Arab countries as they have no convincing reply they can give to their peoples. There are no clear hopes for progress.

Under such circumstances, the recent Israeli threat against the Islamic Republic of Iran is to cover up for the crises Israel experiences and to divert the attention of international and regional public opinion. The recurrent U.S. support for these Israeli threats means that Israel has far-reaching intentions. Israel always says that the Arab countries must not ask for anything but should offer assistance, as best as they can, to reassure the Israelis. The United States adds that the Arab countries, including Egypt, should not insist, under the circumstances, on eliminating the Zionist entity's nuclear and biological weapons. In light of this, do they expect the United States to fulfill its promises to them?

[Al-Husayni] What then is the Iranian stand on the issue of mass destruction weapons, particularly that Iran says that Israel must destroy all its nuclear weapons?

[Sheykholeslam] Iran's stand in this respect is very clear. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always called for the elimination of all mass destruction weapons in all parts of the world, particularly in the explosive Middle East region. This confirms Iran's activities in international fora on disarmament [words indistinct]. Here, one must point out that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and is committed to this. Iran was the first country to have proposed the establishment of a region free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. Every year, Iran stresses the need to achieve this at the UN General Assembly to the other members of the international community. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that Israeli nuclear weapons are the major obstacle in the face of achieving this goal. Iran also stresses that the best step to establishing a zone that is free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East is through imposing the International Atomic Energy Agency's control over the Israeli facilities.

[Al-Husayni] In light of your recent cooperation with Russia on nuclear energy, what is the Iranian stand toward the U.S. stand, particularly that Washington, as is being reported, could bring pressure to bear on Moscow to have it suspend its cooperation with Tehran concerning the development of the Iranian nuclear facilities, as U.S. Secretary of State William Perry recently said?

[Sheykholeslam] The U.S. policies on Iran and the countries in the region in general, are completely subservient to the Israeli policy. The Americans do not have an independent policy on Middle East causes. Their policy resembles the horse that pulls the cart of the Israeli interests in the region. That's why the basic task of the Americans is to exploit all its resources to have the major European countries, including Russia, China, and Japan confront Iran. Within this framework, so long as there is cooperation in the nuclear field for peaceful purposes between Iran and Russia, the other side should explain how much it will be influenced by the U.S. subservience to Israel.

[Al-Husayni] Can you explain to us whether Iran will renew the NPT when it expires next spring?

[Sheykholeslam] As you know, the conference for renewing the NPT will be held in New York in the next few months. The members of this treaty will then decide its fate. The Islamic Republic of Iran, being one of the NPT members, always emphasizes that the weak points in the agreement should be eliminated and that it should be developed in a balanced manner and without any discrimination. In addition to this, some countries, like the United States, contrary to the explicit text of the agreement, have put nuclear weapons technology at the disposal of others. Israel is the best example in this respect. Therefore, Iran's viewpoint is that if the conference is to succeed, the weak points in the NPT should be removed, and attention given to the viewpoints of the countries which do not possess nuclear weapons.

Embassy in Baku Reports Problems in Tabriz

NC1401203495 Baku TURAN in English 1404 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (January 14) TURAN—More than 20 days roads in Tabriz city of Iran are under control of Islam armed guardsmen. From 24.00 till 6 a.m. they check out vehicles and citizens, sources from Tabriz, Iran's city populated with Azeris, report.

Strengthening of regime in Tabriz followed by appeal of head of Tabriz's ostan (province), Abdul Alizade, to Iran's Parliament to introduce self-government regime in Azeri regions of this city.

The same sources report that authorities of the country intend to evacuate tractor and machine-building plants from Tabriz to southern cities of Save and Erak. They motivate their decision by saying that Erak is one of the biggest industrial centres and activity of these plants will be more effective in that city. If authorities succeed, 40,000 persons will become unemployed. They will be compelled to live in southern regions, the majority of population of which are Persians. Source from Tabriz report that Iran's authorities try to carry out refined percization [as received] of Azeri population of Iran.

Head of press-service of Iran's Embassy in Azerbaijan, Agai Sabir, speaking with Turan's correspondent refuted this information. He mentioned that he was born in Tabriz and has contacts with this city. "I am not informed about strengthening of regime in Tabriz", he added.

Agai Sabir did not also acknowledged information about authorities' intention to evacuate machine-building and tractor plants from Tabriz to Save and Erak cities.

According to unofficial information, at present approximately 20 million ethnic Azeris live in Iran.

Emami-Kashani Explains Majles Ban on Satellite TV

LD1301135495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1210 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani in Tehran on 13 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] I want to speak about a number of issues briefly in the second sermon. First, the enemies of Islam's propaganda against Islam, such as saying Iran is arming itself with such and such a weapon, with the nuclear weapon. The enemy has two aims when it raises this hue and cry in the world. The first is a financial one and the other political.

Their financial objective is this: They want to take the money of our neighboring countries, the countries of the Persian Gulf, out of their pockets. They want to sell their weapons. This is their financial objective. The Islamic Republic, the Islamic system intends no type of aggression against any Islamic or neighboring country. This is against our religious beliefs, this is against our ideology. The Islamic Republic and this system is based on Islam, it protects Islam everywhere, it protects Islamic countries. And only certain Islamic countries have fallen into this trap. And the enemy through this is flogging its weapons and taking the peoples' money from them. This is their financial objective.

Now to their political objective, which is also important to them. They want to portray the Islamic Republic, in other words Islam, as radical, violent, and with an ugly face. This is because they can see that Islamic movements have started everywhere in the world, justice-seeking movements have started everywhere. They are saying: Through this, we will give another impression of the Islamic system to the world. They are very upset about Islam. [passage omitted]

The enemy's propaganda leads me to the second point I want to talk about, which is the appropriate step taken by the Islamic Consultative Majles. It was appropriate, necessary, and really good of the Majles to ban the use of satellites. And the Guardian Council approved it too but it raised a number of financial issues that have to be settled before the implementation of the bill.

In any case, now arrogant propaganda mouthpieces have started saying: Satellite dishes and aerials are going to go underground in Iran. No, they will not go underground. They do not understand our country. As the imam [Khomeyni] used to say: They don't understand our people. The great leader of the revolution [Khamene'i], may God extend his shadow, says the very same thing. Our people are devoted to Islam. When the Islamic Consultative Majles has taken this decision, the majority of our people and society say: This decision is in our interest since the bill has considered two points: first, moral corruption and second, blocking the progress of science and scientific evolution. In other words, the two objectives the enemy has in mind through its use of the satellite. They say this themselves.

In the weekly SUNDAY TIMES last Sunday the British weekly wrote: The satellite is the West's weapon against Islam. They say this themselves. It is a weapon for them because the guns have fallen silent now. Today's war is different, today's war is over thought; war today is stealing hearts and minds, they pay attention to this themselves. And this is why they brought the satellite about: first, moral corruption—to keep our children and youth busy with these films—and second, so that kids become corrupted and seek shelter in heroin, corruption, and drugs and become unemployed, empty, worthless individuals. They will not then pursue their studies, they will forget science, education, and exams. These are the two aims pursued by the enemy.

Our people know that when the parliament of this country, our Islamic system, approves a decision based on Islamic values, then this is to the benefit of the majority of our people, it is to the benefit of young and old. However, if there are any positive points [in satellite TV], as you have read in the newspapers, the Voice and Vision [Organization] takes care of it and says: I will record the positive programs and broadcast them, if there are educational programs.

This is the enemy's propaganda. But this is not the case. The people, most of them, are obedient. There is a legal ban. God does not allow it [satellite TV], the system does not allow it. A country which lives under the shadow of the Lord of the Age [12th and hidden Shiite imam], may God hasten his noble advent, says this is outlawed on the basis of Islam. It leads to corruption, it leads the younger generation astray. This is the enemy's propaganda.

Another issue I would like to refer to briefly is that of Chechnya and the Russian army. That is another one of those regrettable situations. One day we have destructions in Lebanon and another day in Bosnia. They constantly attack and kill Muslims. Now it is the turn of Chechnya. They intend to annihilate Muslims wherever they are. The Russian army is committing such a treacherous act.

I would like to repeat the same thing that our dear imam, may God elevate his status, told Gorbachev. He said that it is America that is playing around with you. I would also like to repeat the same thing and tell the Russian statesmen that this is an American game and it is America that is deceiving you. On the one hand it is killing Muslims and on the other hand it is also destroying you. Indeed that is another regrettable situation added to everything else. All these crimes against the oppressed and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Pardons 841 Prisoners

LD1501162495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of the birth anniversary [17 January] of His Eminence Hojjat Bin Hasan Askari [the 12th Imam], may God hasten his lofty advent, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, pardoned and included in his Islamic kindness 841 prisoners who were convicted in the public, revolutionary, and military courts. The pardon of these convicts have taken place at the request of Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch.

The text by the head of the judiciary branch is as follows: To His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader, may his shadows remain over the heads of the Muslims, greetings and congratulations. On the eve of the birth anniversary of the lord of the age, may God hasten his lofty advent [the hidden imam], henceforth, in implementing Clause 11, Article 110 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I present the list of the names of 841 people who were convicted in the public, revolutionary, and military courts, which has been investigated and are meeting the conditions to be pardoned.

I hope that the esteemed leader pardon them and subject them to Islamic compassion and mercy. We are awaiting your instructions.

[Signed] Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch

Parts of Oil Industry To Be Privatized

LD1401115195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Oil Ministry will hand over to the private sector parts of the oil and petrochemical industries, the privatization of which would not be contrary to the Constitution.

According to the director-general of the coordinated planning department of the Oil Ministry, parts of the industry which cannot be handed over to the private sector under the law will be run as autonomous government agencies. Raw materials will be sold to those agencies at international prices and finished products will be purchased from them at the same price.

Saying that the necessary subsidies will be paid by the Oil Ministry and the government, he added: The refineries could be run in the same way.

He said: One of the major axes of the country's oil sector in the second Economic Development Plan is the exploration of new oil and gas reserves. It is estimated that at the end of the second plan, the country's reserves will be increased to at least one billion barrels of accessible crude oil and 400 quintillion cubic feet of gas.

Rafsanjani Foresees End To Housing Problem

LD1401223295 Tehran IRNA in English 2213 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday [15 January] announced that considering the increase of the investment by the government and with the participation of the people in the housing sector the housing problem will be solved in the Second Five-Year Development Plan.

In a meeting with the officials of the Housing and Urban Development Ministry, Rafsanjani expressed his satisfaction over the process of development in the housing sector, in the First Five-Year Developing Plan.

Referring to the successful efforts made by the government in bringing about the facilities, Rafsanjani said that with a reform in the structure of the laws and regulations and with the increase of [words indistinct] and with establishment of houslng there has been a hope for providing houses for people.

Rafsanjani Reviews Visit To Sistan-Baluchestan

LD1501214495 Tehran IRNA in English 2054 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday [15 January] said to reporters that his recent visit to Sistan-Baluchestan Province was very fruitful.

He said in his four-day tour of the province had had inspected many on-going projects which offered him a graphic comparison between the cultural, economic and industrial situation in the province before and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

President Rafsanjani said he knew a lot about the province prior to his visit, but that what he had learned during his visit had perfected his previous knowledge of the shape and quality of life and industries in that province.

In the area of public education, he said, before the Islamic revolution 53 per cent of the school-age and older population in Sistan-Baluchestan were illiterate. Today, he said, there are public schools everywhere.

He said despite that there are still illiterate people in the province mainly because, he observed, some percentage of parents do not send their young daughters to school because of their very traditional doubts in the merits of education for girls. But, he said, this judgment among those parents is gradually on the wane and there is hope that in the near future no young person in the province would be illiterate.

In the area of higher education in the province, President Rafsanjani said, before the triumph of the Islamic revolution there was one university in the province with a student population of about 900. Today, he said, there are about 18,000 students in the various universities of the province which are scattered in different cities.

President Rafsanjani said in a ceremony in the province he had picked ground for building a modern medical education center that will initially occupy an area of 40,000 square meters that will expand to 300,000 square meters later on. He said in addition a 540-bed hospital is being built in Zahedan and another 224-bed hospital in Zabol.

He said he had also visited the 250-mega watt power plant of Iranshahr which is expected to become operational shortly. Upon operation, he said, the power plant would be linked with the trans-Iran power grid. He said in the province there are 900 kilometers of main power transfer lines.

In the city of Nik-Shahr, he said, Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh, had picked ground for building a dam. For Zabol and Zahedan, he said, a project is under way for for building a dam with a nature-built storage of 700 million cubic meters of water that is usually supplied by inflow of waters into Iran from the River Hirmand in Afghanstan.

He said intensive studies had been undertaken in the area of mining and minerals in the province the result of which, he said, indicated that the province is rich in ore, copper, asbestos, and decorative stones including granite that have very good prospects for export.

President Rafsanjani said based on his personal findings the province has an excellent prospect for development, and that aspiring investors in Iran would do well to visit the province and find out for themselves.

New Secretary of Drug Control Appointed

LD1501221695 Tehran IRNA in English 2154 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 16 Jan (IRNA)—President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday [15 January] appointed Mohammad Fallah secretary of the Headquarters for Drug Control.

In a meeting with President Rafsanjani that was also attended by Fallah, Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali-Mohammad Besharati told the president that the Islamic government had successfully fought drug trafficking in Iran with results that were even acknowledged and appreciated by world circles including the secretary general of Interpol.

He said drug trafficking can be prevented although no country had been able to eradicate it.

The interior minister also appreciated the services offered by the ex-secretary of the drug control headuarters General Reza Seyfollahi.

General Seyfollahi is now head of the law enforcement branch of Islamic Republic.

*Appointments to Various Offices Announced

95P50035E Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] In a decree issued by Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Dr. Mohammad-Khan, Engineer Mohammad-Hoseyn Bagh-'Anayat-Halvayi was appointed director general of the Office of Ministerial Affairs.

In a decree issued by Minister of Roads and Transportation Engineer Akbar Torkan, Engineer Mohammad-Hadi Kashanchi was appointed Hormozegan Province director general of roads and transportation.

In a decree issued by Construction Jihad Minister Mr. Foruzesh, Mohammad 'Ali Homayuni was appointed director general of the Boards Investigating Administrative Violations Coordination Office in this ministry.

In a decree issued by the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Dr. Hadi Manafi, Engineer Naser Sorush, while maintaining his current position, was appointed editor-in-chief of the scientific quarterly publication ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

In separate decrees, the Head of the National Document and Property Registration Organization Seyyed Reza Zavarehi appointed 'Ali Asghar Mehrban as head of the Mehdishahr Registration Office; Hoseyn Mehdizadeh as director general of the Technical Office; and Gholamreza Jahan-Mahin as director general of the Hormozegan Province Registration Office.

In a decree issued by Deputy Minister of Health in Charge of Defense Affairs Seyyed Mohammad Amin-Taleb-Shahrestani, Mohammad-Reza 'Ali Mirza'i was appointed supervisor of the Defense Services General Headquarters.

In a decree issued by Security Forces Deputy in Charge of Coordination Brigadier General Mohsen Ansari, Dr. Seyyed Hamid Qazi-Mirsa'id was appointed head of this force's Hospital Number 2.

*Tehran Hosts Genetic Engineering Workshop

95LA0079A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Dec 94 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 10—In order to implement fundamental and applied research for the practical separation of a "gene from a living creature"—DNA (human beings, animals or plants) and transferring it to a cell, a workshop commenced operation here at the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Saturday [10 January].

About 21 academicians and researchers of genetic engineering will be trained at this six-day theoretical and practical workshop which is called "Cloning DNA and Gene Transfer".

According to Dr. Bahram Golyaee, the head of the center, similar workshops which are being held at universities and research centers throughout the universe are strategically important. "This technique is being widely used in medicine and food industries as well as in issues relating to agriculture, health and curative matters", he added.

He stated that the technique also can be applied to studies related to cancer and hence such analysis are very important for the country.

Referring to the center's facilities, Golyaee said that presently this center is equipped with all the necessary paraphernalia needed for genetic research, and added that by holding such specialized workshops, "we can prevent the outflow of foreign exchange from the country."

Golyaee also mentioned that all those performing research work can use the center's facilities. He said that at the present time the center is carrying out a joint research project on prostate cancer with the Illinois University in Chicago.

Khamene'i Says U.S. Imposing 'Guidelines'

LD1701150195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A large number of people from various groups met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, in Hoseynieh-e Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, this morning on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Lord of the Age, may God hasten his lofty advent.

At the meeting, his eminence the great leader congratulated the audience, the Iranian nation, and world Muslims on the birth anniversary of His Eminence Mehdi, may God hasten his lofty advent.

In a speech, explaining the meaning of expectation, he said: The Islamic expectation means a world filled with justice, honesty, sincerity, humanity, morality, spirituality, virtue, and proper Islamic ethics, in which the role of mammonists and bullies and the wicked and malicious propaganda by the Western and Eastern mass media has no place.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i considered hope as an essential part of expectation and said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] Expectation cannot be separated from hope. If you are not hopeful then you will not expect anything. A hopeless person does not expect anything. Wherever there is expectation, there is hope. This is the first point.

Let us see, when a nation sees itself involved in a deadlock and is cornered by evil from all four sides, that nation cannot imagine a solution for itself. So, what will be the state of that nation? Even if a nation is under pressure from every corner, [expectation for the advent of hidden Imam] will leave a ray of hope in its heart. It has hope for a better future and it knows that the situation will improve finally. This flame of hope transforms its life.

What is the state of this nation? Now, we can see that there is huge difference between the two. The fact that you see today a large number of intellectuals from the Islamic countries, even their intellectuals, even their religious scholars, have submitted themselves to the situation. This is because they see that the enemies of that country or that nation have taken charge of their destiny. They impose their will on them. They dictate their life for them. [They tell them] to have bad relation with such a nation or to have good relations with such a nation—you should accept Israel, you should reject the Islamic revolution.

The United States dictates these words for some countries. It gives guidelines like a circular letter to some governments. If they violate [these guidelines], the United States questions them and says: Did we make a deal that you should take such and such a stand toward the Arab-Israeli issue? Why did you take [such a stand]? They still behave as if they are owed something; they (?do not) tolerate other countries. [end recording]

The great leader of the Islamic revolution considered mankind's progress to be toward the rule of law and respect for the oppressed and added: The divine rule of the Lord of the Age, may our souls sacrifice for him, is a government in which the regulations which govern the people are not what the United States and other bullying Western and Eastern powers desire. It is the rule of justice and equality, and the rule of spirituality and virtue. Today, whoever takes a step for justice on the path of religion and serving the oppressed should be happy and hopeful, for the future belongs to him. [passage omitted]

The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, referring to divine regulations and principles, promised the collapse of U.S. imperialism in the near future and said:

We saw the realization of divine and Islamic rule in Iran and the disintegration of the atheistic empire of Marxism, whose black wings spread from the Far East to Latin America. International observers and superficial elements watched with disbelief the collapse of British colonial might. There is no doubt, therefore, that the bullying and interventionist government of the United States will also follow the fate of Britain in several years' time.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, stressing that the world bullies and oppressors are afraid of the [promised] rule of the Lord of the Era, may God hasten his lofty advent, said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] [When the hidden imam returns] a divine government will come to power which will bring justice, equality, fraternity, spirituality, and piety. Satan, however, will not disappear. There will be satans and bad people, but the rule of benevolence and kindness will be dominant. You are moving toward realization of this path. Your hearts should, therefore, feel strong and reassured because the future belongs to you. Anyone working for justice today should feel pleased for the future lies along the path that he is pursuing. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Before the esteemed leader's speech, Posts and Telegraph Minister Gharazi offered congratulations to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i on the auspicious birthday of the Lord of the Era, may God hasten his lofty advent. Mr. Gharazi referred to developments in Palestine, Bosnia, and Chechnya as examples of the world Muslims' efforts to implement justice, to defend the sanctity of Islam, and to confront the enemies of humanity.

Also present at this meeting were a large group of the families of the martyrs, the war disabled, seminary teachers and students, university lecturers, students and pupils, outstanding basij volunteers, and model workers of state administrative offices from various regions of the country.

Norway Assailed for Recalling Ambassador Bye

NC1801103095 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 18 (AFP)—Iran has criticised Norway's decision to recall its ambassador for consultations in connection with the Salman Rushdie affair, newspapers reported Wednesday [18 January].

"This decision is a passive reaction," foreign ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi said, quoted by the press.

Birger Bye [name as received] was ordered to return to Oslo on Monday almost two weeks after Iran summoned its own ambassador in Norway.

'Abdolrahim Gavahi was recalled for hinting in a letter to the Norwegian foreign ministry that his government could change its policy on an Iranian death threat against British author Salman Rushdie.

The late founder of the Islamic republic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni condemned Rushdie to death in 1989 in a "fatwa" or religious edict, saying his novel "The Satanic Verses" had insulted Islam.

Since Khomeyni's death, Iranian leaders have upheld the sentence despite strong criticism from Western countries.

Norway has repeatedly urged Iran to revoke the death threat against Rushdie following the 1993 shooting of the Norwegian publisher of The Satanic Verses, William Nygaard.

On Sunday, the Iranian weekly KAYHAN HAVA'I quoted an official here as saying Iran had decided to scale down its diplomatic relations with Norway in protest at Oslo's backing for Iranian opposition groups and Rushdie.

Tehran will "refrain from sending a new ambassador to Norway until Oslo corrects its unfriendly ways towards Iran," the official said.

Norway Leading 'Anti-Islamic Faction'

LD1701174695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the Norwegian Government's retaliatory move of recalling its ambassador to Tehran, political relations between the two countries have cooled. Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi comments:

[Begin Mohammadi recording] In fact, the Norwegian move was a retaliatory act following the move by the Islamic Republic of Iran, after we recalled our ambassador in Norway. Over the past year, Norway has become the spokesman of the anti-Islamic faction in Europe—such as the antireligious stance of the Norwegian representative at the UN Conference on Population and Development, which led to a decisive response from the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. And its nonadherence to the principle of mutual respect in its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran led us to withdraw our ambassador from Norway in order to protect the principles of our beliefs and our foreign policy. Therefore, the Norwegians undertook this retaliatory act in response to our move. [end recording]

Commentary Views Motives of Alexandria Summit

NC1501114695 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 8 Jan 95 p 12

[Commentary by A. Salehiniya: "The Alexandria Summit: Motives and Objectives"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The unexpected summit of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia in Alexandria and reports that leaked out on the topics discussed contain some noteworthy points. [passage omitted]

Facts show that the idea for this summit originated in Syria. From the time it entered the arena of peace talks, Syria has resorted to various means to unite the Arab countries against the Zionist regime, despite all the existing problems. [passage omitted]

But why a summit in Alexandria in the presence of the Egyptian and Saudi heads of state?

The following points should be noted:

1. The speed with which Israel forwarded its plans for the normalization of relations with the Arabs and its attempts to establish direct relations with the heads of Arab regimes showed the Egyptians that they are gradually losing their position in regional political equations, that in the next stages of the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations Egypt will not enjoy its former political prestige, and that it will not be rewarded for its outstanding services to America and Israel.

America does not need Egypt to implement its plans, nor does Israel to hold talks with the Arabs.

Meanwhile, Egypt is drowning in immense economic, political, and security problems at home. Despite its violence against the Islamists and the foreign financial aid that it receives, it has been unable to solve its problems. All these things are signs of the inefficiency and weakness of the current heads of the Egyptian regime in maintaining their rule.

What has been described as a propaganda war between Egypt and America, especially American press comments against the Mubarak regime; the fact that the volume of American assistance to the Egyptian regime is being questioned; the victory of the Republicans in Congress in America and the proposal to reduce American foreign aid have all been interpreted by Egypt as efforts to deprive it of assistance. [passage omitted]

The Zionists' extensive economic and tourism plans aimed at turning Israel into a pole of economy and tourism in the region will also isolate Egypt in these two fields.

There are even rumors that plans to build new canals—which will create a link among the Red Sea, the Dead Sea, and the Mediterranean—will decrease the significance of the Suez Canal.

All these things have made Egypt realize that it still has the power to maneuver and influence regional issues. Approaching Libya and unofficially ignoring the UN sanctions on that country; increasing trade, especially through the trade cooperation between the elder sons of the two heads of state; and other such issues can be examined within this context. [passage omitted]

2. Fahd's announcement that he agrees with Hafiz al-Asad's request that the normalization process of relations between Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime be halted shows how far the Zionists have gone in establishing direct relations with the heads of Arab regimes. It is also Fahd's implicit admission of the Saudis' efforts in the recognition of Israel. However, although the Saudis fervently wish that the Arab-Israel conflict be ended as soon as possible and despite their record in covert relations with the Zionists and even rendering services to that regime, the Saudi regime is facing many problems at home.

The Saudis, who find themselves helpless to meet America's ever-increasing expectations and have to tolerate direct and overt intervention by the American President in international bids in favor of American companies, are facing numerous problems at home.

The intellectual and educated class in Saudi Arabia is organizing itself and expressing its opposition against the basis of Al Sa'ud rule. This class has actually become an instrument of pressure in the hands of the Westerners against the Saudi regime. Also, the formation of clerical movements that are not dependent on the royal court and are overtly and strongly criticizing the Saudi regime's foreign policy, especially the foreign presence, influence, and domination over society, as well as the fact that the holy shrines are situated on Saudi territory, have all turned the attention of Muslims to that country. These things make up the major obstacle in the way of the Saudis establishing relations with the Zionists. [passage omitted]

3. The convening of this session showed that Syria has still not received the necessary price to reach an agreement with Israel.

Israel continues its obstructionism so that it can achieve an agreement with Syria in return for as little as possible, and Syria continues to insist on its stances.

The mere fact that this session was held is a success for Syria. This session will probably slow down the normalization process of relations between Arab countries, especially the Persian Gulf southern littoral states, with Israel. This is something that can be gleaned from comments by the Zionist regime on the Alexandria summit.

Envoy Denies Khomeyni Involvement in German's Death

LD1601193595 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Jan. 16, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Germany Seyyed Hoseyn Musavian, rejected allegations leveled at Iran by German daily "BILD".

The daily, in its Saturday [14 January] editorial, had said that Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of late Ayatollah Khomeyni (r), had ordered the killing of former Premier of German District of Schleswig-Holstein, Uwe Barschel. The daily also reported that Ahmad Khomeyni and Uwe Barschel had met at a Geneva hotel on 10 October 1987, prior to the discovery of Barschel's body.

Musavian, calling the "BILD" report as "baseless" added that Barschel never had a meeting with an Iranian official and, Ahmad Khomeyni's first trip abroad was in 1990.

The Iranian envoy, in an interview with IRNA, Monday said that the German officials have also rejected the daily's report.

The source of the report is an informant of the German secret services, said the daily, adding that the informant had gained his information from a former body-guard of Ahmad Khomeyni. The paper further refused to name the two individuals.

According to BILD report, the meeting between Ahmad Khomeyni and Uwe Barschel was also attended by three individuals engaged in arms trade. The traders were of American, Israeli and Arab nationalities.

The daily claimed that Ahmad Khomeyni ordered Barschel's killing after disagreement arose between them at the Geneva meeting.

Meanwhile, German weekly "SPIEGEL" also reporting on Barschel's death, reported in its Monday issue that at a meeting between the representatives of German intelligence services and the city of Luebeck's public prosecutor, all sides agreed that Barschel's murder was related to arms trade between Western and Eastern block states.

The above meeting further decided to investigate Barschel's trips to former East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Prior to Barschel's death, the "BILD" editor-in-chief, was awarded by the Zionist regime for his services to Israel.

Pakistan

'Post-Visit' Reaction Roundup to Perry's Visit

BK1701142595

[FBIS Editorial Report] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry ended his visit to the South Asia region on 14 January. Commenting on Perry's visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said "our understanding with the American Administration has now matured beyond the Pressler Amendment." [Islamabad PTV Television in English] She said the visit "helped dispel the impression that Pakistan's strategic importance in the region has ended" and that "the United States has also agreed to adopt an even-handed approach." [Islamabad Radio Pakistan in Urdu] Follows a brief survey of commentary and editorials from media covered by Bangkok Bureau from 13-17 January: The media focussed not only on the results of the Perry visit to Pakistan, but also commented on his visit to India. Doubts about a U.S. "even-handed" approach continued to be raised in light of the U.S.-Indian defense cooperation "agreed minutes."

A commentary carried by Islamabad Radio Pakistan in English on 16 January echoed Prime Minister Bhutto's positive assessment of the Perry visit. It noted that "Perry, during his visits to both Pakistan and India, made it clear that the United States will have an even-handed approach while dealing with both the countries. This policy most favors Pakistan as now India would not be able to provoke any anti-Pakistan role by the United States." It concluded: "The process of normalization" of ties will "go a long way in improving bilateral relations." Islamabad THE NATION in English published on 13 January a "news analysis," which said the "U.S. and Pakistan laid the foundations for a new security relationship despite the restrictions placed on Islamabad by the Pressler Amendment." An editorial published in Lahore JANG in Urdu, a moderate newspaper, on 15 January concluded: "We hope the U.S. policy on South Asia will be more balanced after the U.S. delegation's visit and that it will be able to play a positive role in resolving the region's core issues."

Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu on 13 January published an editorial which said that "time will prove how far the CG [Consultative Group] is beneficial to the two countries." It also noted that "it is very clear" that benefits "will be limited," but it concluded that the CG "is considered a major achievement" from Perry's visit. A 14 January JANG editorial said the revival of the Consultative Group "represents an effort" by the United States. It added that "the agreements that the U.S. signed with India as well as Pakistan are, to a large extent, of a similar nature." It noted "it would not be difficult to understand that a pleasant change" can be expected as a result of Perry's visit. However, it concluded that "Washington will now have to prove that the promises it has made for promoting ties with Pakistan can be trusted and relied upon."

An editorial published in Karachi DAWN in English, a centrist newspaper, on 13 January took a more skeptical view and said that "it needs a fine scalpel to pick up the crumbs of comfort left behind by" Perry. It noted that "it would have been unrealistic to expect anything more." THE NATION on 14 January published an article which questioned: "What does the United States want from Pakistan—now?" It noted that "to Pakistan, Mr. Perry offered nothing except the revival of a forum for discussion; with India" he signed "a formal defence treaty." Regarding U.S. claims of an "even-handed" policy, the article noted "if one compares what Mr. Perry has offered to India with what he has offered to Pakistan, this does not appear to be the case at all." It said that "Pakistan has gained nothing significant" from the visit. The article observed: "Let it be also clear that the US is in no way even-handed in its outlook on South Asia. It has a clear-cut tilt towards India." On 17 January, THE NATION published an editorial which questioned U.S. evenhandedness and said "of course it is obvious to all but the purblind that the inherent discriminatory nature of the sanctions under the Pressler Amendment in Pakistan's case and the defence cooperation agreement signed by Mr. Perry in New Delhi, point to a further disadvantaging of Pakistan in term's of the sole superpower's affections." It cautioned that "the Americans have a disconcerting habit of using us when convenient and dumping us unceremoniously when their immediate interests have been served."

Article Questions Objectives of Perry's Visit

BK1501081295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[First of two installments of an article by Ishtiaq Ahmad under the "Perry's Visit" rubric: Becoming a Pawn in the American Game-Plan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—What does the United States want from Pakistan—now?

Does it want Pakistan to act on its behalf, once again? This time, to check the growth of what the US-led West fears in the post-Cold War period, the current and the expected growth of "Islamic fundamentalism" in South Asia, Central Asia and the Persian Gulf? Seen in the light of the visit of Secretary of Defence William Perry to this country—and how he himself and officials of the Pakistan government interpreted the parleys between the two countries that took place during visit, and their outcome—the only answer is, Yes.

"The talks focussed on security environment in the three regions, including South Asia, Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. The stabilising role of Pakistan in each of these regions was highlighted. Both sides desired to do everything possible to improve and enlarge relations to mutual benefit," said the Foreign Office spokesman on Tuesday, soon After Mr Perry concluded about two-hour long talks with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali here at the Foreign Office.

In fact, it was almost a week before the arrival of Mr Perry, the Foreign Office had thrown a feeler describing the new shape the America-Pakistan relationship was likely to take in the wake of Mr Perry's visit. "The US and Pakistan have an interest in working together for the construction of progressive, moderate states in an arch which extends beyond South Asia, Persian Gulf and Central Asia," said the Foreign Office spokesman during a regular Press briefing on January 3 while quoting a senior official of the US State Department.

Then, in his arrival statement, Mr Perry said, "I am here to promote a broader security dialogue that will help us build on what is right about it. The United States believes that the best way to overcome our differences is to have broader security dialogue so that we can better understand one another. I hope my visit will help foster such a dialogue."

Talking to newsman on Wednesday, Mr Perry described Pakistan as "a model of moderation in the Islamic world." Finally, describing the significance of his Pakistan visit, the American Defence Secretary stated in his departure statement that it "reaffirmed the importance of the close security relationship between the United States and Pakistan."

The primary outcome of Mr Perry's visit has been the revival of the US Pakistan Military Consultative Group between the two countries whose agenda includes, among other things, the exchange of perceptions on regional situation, threat perception briefings and identification of areas of mutual defence cooperation.

Formed in 1984, the Group has not met since 1990, when the US imposed Pressler Amendment against Pakistan had stopped all military and economic assistance and defence supplies to the latter. The Consultative Group will meet only once a year, and after the revival, its first meeting will take place in Washington some time this year. Joseph S. Nye, US Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs, who is known as the chief think-tank for the CIA on American foreign policy, will head the American side during the Group meeting.

Mr Perry made it clear that the Group would function within the existing constraints in relationship between the two countries, the biggest constraint being the Pressler Amendment. As a forum to promote Pak-US security cooperation the Group will help the defence establishments of the two countries exchange intelligence on regional development. In simple terms, it will be a forum for discussion to monitor security developments in Central Asia, South Asia and the Persian Gulf, with both sides consistently searching for ways and means, and implementing them, to tackle unstable security trends when and where these emerge in the regions concerned.

The United States understands that the turmoil in Afghanistan is going to stay for long. Then, Iran, ruled by Islamists, poses a potential danger to American interests in the Persian Gulf. The only anti-nuclear proliferation statement that Mr Perry made during his four-nation Asian tour targetted Iran, whom, he accused in Tel Aviv, of carrying out weapons-oriented nuclear pursuits.

Also, many American foreign policy experts, whose opinion matters in the Congressional hearings and reports, are of the view that even if Pakistan is not playing any credible role in Central Asia right now, it is likely to do so in future. Thus, in the longer run, the US may need Pakistan crucially in Central Asia. Finally, China is an emerging superpower, with all its military and economic potential which is a matter of great concern for the US. However, in the Chinese case, the US prefers to use India as what is called "a counterpoise to China."

Although, to Pakistan, Mr Perry offered nothing except the revival of a forum for discussion; with India, he signed on Thursday a formal defence treaty. Under the terms of this treaty, the US will help India in producing defence equipment, including light combat aircraft. Defence experts of both the countries will undertake research in defence production.

Almost a month before the arrival for Mr. Perry in South Asia, the Pentagon had issued a policy statement for the region, which said that the US would treat India and Pakistan "even-handedly." But if one compares what Mr Perry has offered to India with what he has offered to Pakistan, this does not appear to be the case at all.

The Consultative Group is primarily a joint committee to share information on matters of mutual security concern. It will not help much in removing the biggest constraint in Pak-American ties, the Pressler Amendment. The group will meet only once a year. However, what the defence of Pakistan needs is the immediate removal of the Pressler constraint, so that not only the over $650 million US military and economic assistance to Pakistan, the country should also be supplied 38 F-16s for which it has already paid over $600 million to the American Lockheed arms manufacturing company that manufactures the aircraft. [sentence as published]

Bhutto Comments on Perry Visit, Kashmir Talks

BK1501163895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that her government achieved 80 percent of its macroeconomic targets last year and that would concentrate on the issues of price hikes and corruption during the current year. She was talking to reporters at the Parliament House in Islamabad this afternoon. She said the new energy policy has brought in over 12 billion rupees in investment and a number of other programs have been initiated for the betterment of the society. The prime minister said they had made commitments to bring inflation down to 9 percent within one year, but the task could not be accomplished because of excessive loans secured by the last government and the decline in cotton production. She said the government is currently carrying out a midyear economic review and will enact measures to curtail inflation. Anticipating that hoarding could take place during the forthcoming month of Ramadhan, she said, the government has instructed trading corporations to import essential items. Instructions have also been issued to the provincial governments to enact antihoarding measures.

The prime minister expressed the firm resolve of her government to root out the corruption that has penetrated almost every segment of the society. She said that for the first time the government has arrested three top bankers in fraud cases. She said cases have been initiated against those politicians involved in bank fraud and financial corruption.

The prime minister said a comprehensive strategy is being chalked out to deal with sectarianism and she has convened a special session of the cabinet to consider the issue of arms circulation. The session will be attended by the provincial chief ministers. She said people are acquiring weapons on various lame excuses, but the government will not allow this.

The prime minister also referred to the recent visit by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and said the visit helped dispel the impression that Pakistan's strategic importance in the region has ended. She said the United States considers Pakistan an important factor for peace and stability in the region. The United States has also agreed to adopt an evenhanded approach on the nuclear nonproliferation issue. It is no longer pressuring Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unilaterally.

The prime minister said Pakistan is willing to enter into a bilateral dialogue with India provided there is a significant troop reduction in occupied Kashmir, the draconian antiterrorism legislation is repealed, and there is progress on the nonpapers exchanged both countries. She said Pakistan wants third party mediation on Kashmir, but this is unacceptable to India.

On the political situation in the country, Benazir Bhutto said talks should be held between the government and the opposition in the spirit of give and take. She said her door is always open to dialogue. She said she is not bothered by the confrontationist attitude of the opposition because this is part of democracy.

On talks with the Muhajir Quami Movement [MQM], she said the Army was withdrawn from Sindh according to the MQM's demand because they believed the Army's presence caused discontent among the people. Now the government expects a quid pro quo from the MQM.

On Nuclear Weapons, Israel

NC1501201795 London MBC Television in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Jan 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Talk of the Hour" program—recorded, in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] We would like to ask the Pakistani prime minister how many nuclear bombs Pakistan possesses today.

[Bhutto] For goodness sake; we have a very peaceful program. and since 1985, the Junejo government and all former prime ministers have stressed that we have programs for peaceful purposes. We, no doubt, have some capabilities, but they have not been put in their final condition, because we believe in nuclear nonproliferation. It was India that carried out a nuclear test in 1974, and it exploded a nuclear bomb. Therefore, Pakistan had to obtain knowledge about this. We are against nuclear proliferation, and our program is for peaceful purposes. We make efforts in all international forums to avoid nuclear proliferation. But regrettably, India did not respond to our proposals. Its military capabilities are clearly growing, and India's missiles reach not only Pakistan, but all the way over to Yemen. Therefore, the states of the region should be united with Pakistan to emphasize the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and missile system in South East Asia. We can do much in a stable climate. Hence the importance of stopping the arms race. If we look at the United States and Russia, we find that their military powers were crowned by the talks between them. As regards Pakistan, we made balanced decisions to direct our program toward peaceful objectives, unless our future is endangered. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] When will Pakistan recognize Israel? Do you have any intention of doing so?

[Bhutto] We have not yet made a decision in this regard. But we welcomed the developments of the peace process in the Middle East. We are eager for a comprehensive peace for the Middle East conflict to be achieved, including the Golan Heights and the status of Jerusalem. We believe that much has been achieved in this area. We hope that more will be achieved soon, God willing.

[Correspondent] If a settlement of these various issues is reached, will Pakistan recognize Israel?

[Bhutto] We have not yet made a decision. Anyway, we are carefully watching the situation in the Middle East.

Editorial Fears Indian Military Attack

BK1501160795 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 14 Jan 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Indian-U.S. Defense Agreement: The Danger of a 'Devastating' War for Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A bilateral defense cooperation agreement has been signed between India and the United States following discussions between U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry and the Indian authorities. The agreement will help forge cooperation between the defense services of the two countries and in the fields of research, joint weapons production, joint military exercises, military training, and close interaction between the Pentagon and the Indian Ministry of Defense. The United States has described this as an historic agreement in the post-Cold War era. In fact, in one step the United States has achieved everything that it failed to achieve in 1947 due to Nehru's sentimentalism.

The U.S. defense secretary assured the Indian Government that growing Sino-U.S. ties would not be a threat to India because these contacts do not envisage the supply of U.S. arms or the transfer of technology to China. Even though the U.S. authorities have declared that their defense agreement with India is not directed against Pakistan, the fact is that everything India gains from the United States in the defense field will be used solely for aggression against Pakistan. While addressing his diplomatic staff in New Delhi, William Perry himself said that by establishing close contacts with both India and Pakistan the United States will be able to keep the two countries from engaging in a fourth, disastrous war. According to the Voice of Germany, William Perry expressed fear about the possibility of another war between India and Pakistan—a war that would be extremely devastating.

The U.S. defense secretary's apprehensions are in fact a warning whose meaning must not be misunderstood by the Pakistani nation or the civilian and military leadership. William Perry also spent three days in Pakistan and held discussions at various levels, but no breakthrough was made in bilateral relations except for the revival of a 10-year-old Pakistan-U.S. Consultative Group. While Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan described this Consultative Group as mere "paperwork," former Army Chief General Aslam Beg has called it a successful U.S. attempt to deceive Pakistan. This is because there has been no apparent change in the U.S. policy on Pakistan's nuclear program. U.S. military aid to Pakistan remains suspended, and the F- 16 aircraft for which the U.S. has already received payment will not be delivered.

Given this situation, what role will this proposed Consultative Group play in Pakistan's favor? Retired Gen. K.M. Arif has said that Pakistan cannot expect to reap any benefit from the revival of the Consultative Group in the near future. A point has also been raised in a news analysis that the two countries will exchange military information through the Pakistan-U.S. Consultative Group. Under this clause, we cannot gain any information about U.S. military preparations, which have global dimensions. If we fail to provide correct information to them about our own military preparations, however, it will be considered a breach of the contract. A fear also exists that under this clause the United States will insist on receiving information about the progress we have made in the defense field. By contrast, under the agreement signed with India, bilateral cooperation will not be limited to the exchange of information but will also include assistance in arms production.

India's slyness defies description. During the Cold War it was tied to the former Soviet Union through defense treaties. Thus it acquired modern arms and equipment from that country, including fighter aircraft and nuclear submarines. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, it changed its tactics to appease the United States and has now signed a defense agreement. In fact, the U.S. has always looked forward to bringing India into its circle. The United States is fully aware of India's past role. The manner in which New Delhi openly supported the Soviet Union during the Afghan war is no secret. In a premeditated plan, the United States has decided to make India a policeman in this region. Pakistan has been receiving hints for the last few years that it should accept India as the dominant power in the region. U.S. duplicity has reached the point that Washington objects to Pakistan's nuclear program—the Pressler Amendment was enacted specifically to stop military and economic aid to Islamabad—but has signed an agreement with India, a country that has already exploded a nuclear device, to equip it with more military hardware.

What is more astonishing is that China is now expressing its willingness to assist India in its nuclear program and is providing nuclear fuel for its Tarapur nuclear power plant. Thus a conspiracy is being hatched against Pakistan. It is not inconceivable that in the future William Perry's current apprehensions may take concrete form and India may once again resort to naked aggression against Pakistan. Perturbed by the success of the freedom movement in Kashmir, India—which is facing the same situation the former Soviet Union did in Afghanistan—may choose to attack Pakistan at any time. We do not want to create undue fear and alarm among the general public. India, which has deployed more than 600,0000 troops in occupied Kashmir, will probably not fall into the trap of waging war with Pakistan. Nevertheless, we would also not like to be caught unaware and allow the enemy—encouraged by the new world order—to overwhelm and subdue us. May God not show us that day. In the meantime, it is the duty of the government, political forces, armed forces, and the general people to understand our defense requirements and make full preparations at the national level to resist the enemy. We must raise an impregnable wall before the enemy by burying our mutual hatred, resolving disputes, and ending political confrontations. The secret of our honor, dignity, and survival lies in our collective endeavors.

Analysts Say India Sabotaging Russian Arms Deal

BK1501124195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Jan 95 p 12

[Article by Ali Abbas Rizwi: "India Sabatoges Pak-Russia Arms Deal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—India may have successfully sabotaged the Pak-Russian deal on Su-27s by deciding to purchase 30 Su-30s although the weapon system was recently rejected by the Indian Air Force (IAF). Analysts say that the Russian prime minister's announcement, at the end of his Indian visit, that no arms would be sold to Pakistan had followed a tacit understanding with the Indian authorities that if they bought the Su-30s, Russia would not have a deal with Pakistan on Su-27s.

Generally speaking, an Su-30 would have cost $40 million or Rs 1.2 billion in Indian currency. The Russians offered the aircraft to the IAF for only Rs 700 million per unit. Therefore, a squadron of 30 Su-30s, along with ground support equipment and missiles, would cost India only around Rs 35 billion, much less than what Pakistan would have paid for two squadrons of Su-27s. The Su-30 deal will now offset Moscow's losses due to the cancellation of the Su-27 deal with Islamabad.

Earlier, the Indians had maintained tremendous pressure on Russia to cancel the proposed arms deal with Pakistan. They made all efforts to convince the Russians that the sale of weapons to Pakistan would not only harm their traditional military, economic and political ties with New Delhi but would also amount to upsetting the balance of power in the region.

To counter the Indian objections over the sale of Su-27s to Pakistan, the Russians had made a similar offer to the Indian Air Force. This entailed the sale of Su-30s, a modified version of the Su-27s. The aircraft would have come from the Russian Inventory of 117 Su-30s which were dormant and no longer needed.

The Indian Air Force had turned down the Russian offer for three reasons. First, it could not spare the money for the aircraft with so many projects in hand, including the on-card purchase of advanced jet trainers and upgrading of MiG-21s.

Second, the IAF could not add another fighter to its ever-increasing inventory of aircraft because it would have been more than a headache in terms of logistics and maintenance required for a new weapon system. The Su-30s require three-times the maintenance effort as compared to the MiG-20s.

Third in terms of Indo-Pak scenario, the aircraft was useless as in its long-range interception mode, it could crisscross Pakistan twice while Mirage 2000s, Jaguars and MiG-27s were good enough to hit most of the strategic targets deep inside Pakistan.

However, the main interest of the IAF, and for that matter the Indian government, remained that no weapons deal should be struck between Islamabad and Moscow. Therefore, it seems that despite the IAF's initial objections and the uselessness of the system for India, the Indian government reached an understanding to purchase the Su-30s provided the Russians refused to sell Su-27s to Pakistan. For this, it also curtailed the IAF's MiG-20 order.

It may be noted that till 1993, the final decision to sell arms to a country was taken by the Russian government after studying recommendations submitted by the Military and Technical Cooperation Commission (KVTS).

The KVTS comprise the heads of Ministry of Foreign Economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, External Intelligence Service, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economics and Security. That system, it now appears, has become inoperative. The Russian prime minister, in his sojourn at New Delhi, could decide to sell Su-30s to India and at the same time announce that there would be no arms deal with Pakistan. The KVTS did not apparently come into the picture.

It had taken Moscow and Islamabad a long time to discuss the sale of weapons again—25 years to be exact. Thanks to the Indian intrigues and diplomatic manoeuvring, nobody knows how much time both countries would take again to discuss another deal. Meanwhile, after American embargo and Russian refusal, the choices for Pakistan Air Force are getting narrower and more limited.

Antinarcotics Agreement Reached With India

BK1601040795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and India have expressed their resolve to fully cooperate in effectively controlling drug trafficking along their common borders. This was stated by the two sides at a meeting in Islamabad yesterday. An Indian delegation headed by Mr. Joginder Singh, director general of the Narcotics Control Bureau of India, represented his country during talks with Major General Salahuddin Tirmizi, the director general of Antinarcotics Task Force. Later, the Indian delegation accompanied by S.K. Lamba, Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan, called on Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar, minister for interior and narcotics control. The minister assured the members of the Indian delegation of the Pakistani Government's wholehearted cooperation in drug control efforts. The gesture was reciprocated by the Indian side.

Cooperation Reaffirmed

BK1601161095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The official-level discussions between Pakistan and India on controlling narcotics trafficking along the common border have ended with the signing of the agreed minutes. The minutes were signed by Major General Salahuddin Tirmizi, the leader of the Pakistani delegation, and Indian delegation leader Joginder Singh. The two sides reiterated their resolve to continue and intensify their mutual efforts and cooperation to control drug trafficking and smuggling in the region. They also reaffirmed that the decisions reached in this meeting and in the earlier two meetings will be implemented in letter and spirit and that the scope of cooperation will be further expanded to encompass all matters of mutual interest relating to narcotics control.

Paper Views Delhi Request for Staff Withdrawal

BK1601105495 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 16 Jan 95 p 10

[Editorial: "India's Retaliatory Move"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In what certainly appears to be retaliatory move on the part of India for the closure of its consulate in Karachi late last December, the Indian government has asked Pakistan to "withdraw" 15 staff members from the Pakistani High Commission within a month. Such a move was not entirely unexpected. And as the Pakistani High Commissioner in New Delhi has observed, once the number of the Indian mission staff in Pakistan had been reduced to 110 after the departure of the 18-member staff manning the Indian Consulate in Karachi, India was likely to seek a reduction in the strength of the staff attached to the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi. Among other things, this is also a reflection of the tit-for-tat logic that underlines the thorny relationship between the two countries. There have been a number of similar incidents of one set of expulsions following another by way of retaliation, some even involving a rouging-up of the staff. The latter, of course, is a practice that cannot be condoned in any case. The issue of expulsions is a little more complex. While in some instances such a measure may be taken simply by way of retaliation and without merit, in other cases, compelling reasons may exist. With regard to the closure of the Indian Consulate in Karachi, for instance, it appears to have been the considered view of the government of Pakistan that members of the staff of the consulate were involved in encouraging terrorist-related incidents in Karachi and that the recent sharp rise in the death toll in the city was directly related to their stepped-up activities. As Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh observed with regard to the Indian Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan cannot allow a centre for sabotage, subversion and terrorism to continue to operate within the country.' There was even an appreciable drop in the number of incidents of violence in Karachi and the rest of Sindh in the aftermath of the closure, lending credence to the government's viewpoint. At another level, it is instructive to note that not only did India consistently refuse to hand over the Jinnah House in Bombay for setting up Pakistan's Consulate there, reciprocally, after the establishment of the Indian Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan's mission in Bombay could not continue to operate as militant organisations, like the Shiv Sena, were allowed to intimidate the staff.

Be all that as it may, the fact remains that such moves and counter-moves on the part of India and Pakistan with regard to their diplomatic staff do not help the cause of a stable antagonistic neighbours. And precisely because the relationship is far from a happy one, all the more reason that the diplomatic channels, to as great an extent as possible, should be allowed to function without impediment so that an already tense situation does not become more aggravated due to misunderstanding or a communication breakdown. Equally, therefore, those associated with the mission must be kept well away from the internal affairs of the host country and directed to eschew the temptation of creating problematic situations for it, or indeed, taking advantage of them for doing so, among other things, grievously undermines their ability to perform their assigned role satisfactorily. And this can have serious consequences, particularly in the context of the far-from-harmonious relationship that exists between Pakistan and India.

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